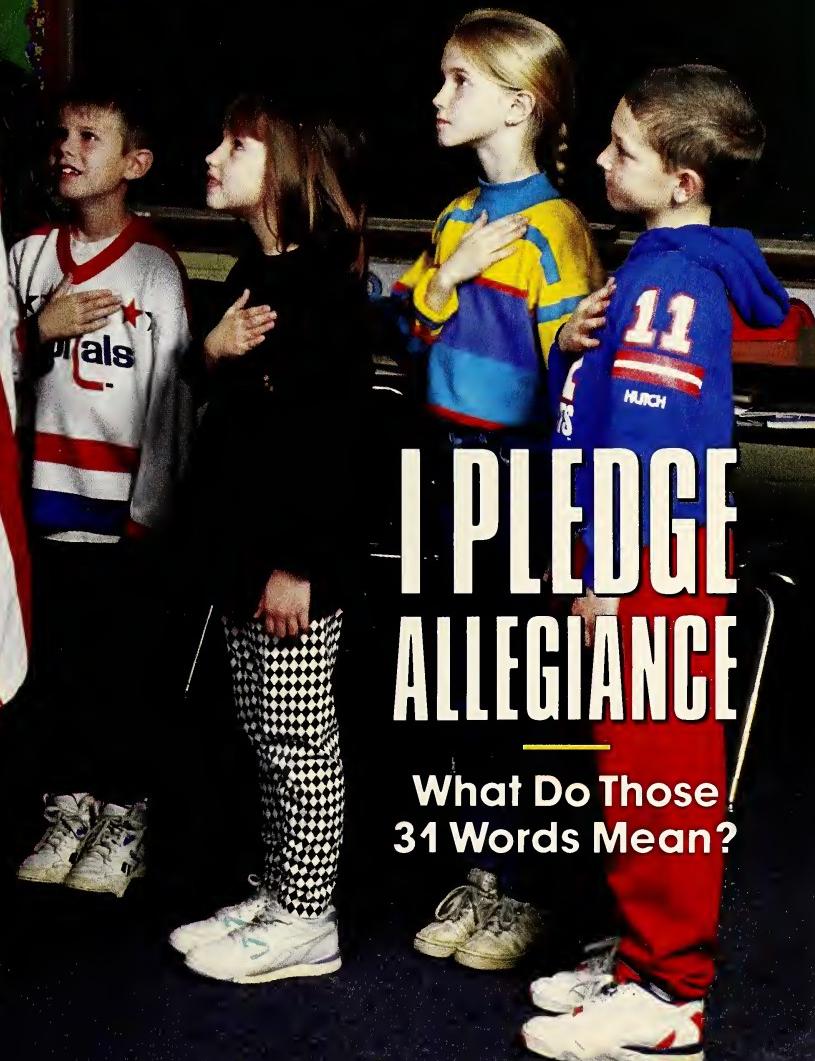


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MEETINGS
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July 1992

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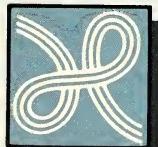
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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 133, No. 1

July 1992

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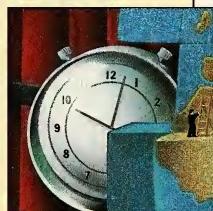
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The Pledge of Allegiance is a vow to serve the country and the flag of the United States of America. These students at Nottingham Elementary School in Arlington, Va., carry on that American tradition. Photograph by Robert Crandall/Picture Group. See Page 18.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through more than 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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National Commander

Dominic D. DiFrancesco

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Daniel S. Wheeler

Editor

John Greenwald

Managing Editor

Miles Z. Epstein

Associate Editor

Raymond H. Mahon

Assistant Editors

T. Douglas Donaldson

Ken Scharnberg

Art Director

Simon Smith

Art Assistant

Ann Reeder

Production Manager

William L. Poff

Administration

Kathy Ferrer, Joan L. Berzins

Advertising Director

Donald B. Thomson

Advertising Assistants

Diane Andretti, Robyn Black

The American Legion Magazine

P.O. Box 7088

Indianapolis, IN 46207

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Publisher's Representatives

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Chicago: 312-644-3838

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Atlanta: 404-252-0968

San Francisco: 415-989-5804

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Handbook

Congratulations on the "Handbook of Veterans' Benefits" in the May issue. Finally, a simple, yet comprehensive source of information about the many benefits available to veterans. Every Legionnaire can now easily remove and keep this valuable information. It's something we've needed for a long time.

*Arthur E. Rawers
Stickney, Ill.*

New Guinea

The article "Great Men: Allied Jungle Fighters Battled The Japanese And Saved Australia" (Commander's Message, April) brought back many memories. Day and night, I helped fly the 32nd Division into Port Moresby, New Guinea. I know they took one hell of a beating.

I am honored that you are erecting a memorial to remember these brave soldiers who were so successful in keeping the Japanese out. I have 14 grandchildren and would love to have them take part in your walk along the Kokoda Trail.

*Oscar W. Swenson
Lancaster, Minn.*

You don't know how happy you made a lot of veterans with this article.

*Antonio Vallande Jr.
Cranston, R.I.*

During my service in the Darwin area of Australia and New Guinea, I worked at an airstrip at Lalaki, 14 miles from Port Moresby. Many of the Aussie units passed through our area on the way to Kokoda. The touch-and-go situation there was brought home when the Japanese came down from Kokoda and we had to set up machine-gun and defensive positions. I remember how the Aussies happily manned the guns.

*Thomas R. McCormack
Covington, Ky.*

I have read about the Marines and Guadalcanal and the Navy and Air Force during the Battle of the Coral Sea. But the article in the April issue was the first time I've read about the 126th Infantry Regiment. Many thanks.

*Monty M. Snyder
Louisville, Ky.*

Economic Warfare

I attended the 50th anniversary commemorations of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Visiting the USS Arizona Memorial was the most emotional experience I believe I have had to date. While sightseeing there, I couldn't help but notice that Japanese received special treatment. In the restaurants, I felt like a second-class citizen.

We hear many things about the Jap-

anese taking over the United States and having us dependent on them, but to personally witness some of these events is shocking and cause for much concern.

A 1989 book written by a noted Japanese economist spells out the economic plan to make the United States and the world dependent on the Japanese.

The term "economics" should not overshadow the fact that our nation's security is welded to our financial strength. Our future and our children's future depend upon us being militarily and economically No. 1. Pressure your representative before it's too late.

*Domenick Scarlato
Lake Grove, N.Y.*

Has America lost its competitive edge? ("Greed, Egos And The Decline Of American Business," April). Hopefully not. Worldwide, America is doing amazingly well for the situation it is in. But the edge has been severely dulled, and it is not because of the excesses of a few managers, as Robert Waterman said in his interview.

America's industry is competing in an international race. Industries from other nations, Japan and Germany in particular, are sponsored, applauded and encouraged by their governments. Americans in that race are bound from head to foot by red tape, much of which is intended to increase the power of the army of bureaucrats who put it there.

*Fred Noise
Epsom, N.H.*

An American, Too

More than 50 years ago, I was one of 120,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast who were sent to detention centers ringed with barbed wire fences and watchtowers with armed sentinels. We were deprived of our constitutional rights. Without any charges or individual hearings, on a few weeks notice, we were ordered to pack our belongings and go to internment centers.

Now with the current Japan bashing accelerated by Japanese and American politicians, Japanese Americans are once again becoming targets of Japan bashers. An elderly American accosted me at a shopping center parking lot and demanded where I came from. After

Please turn page

VETVOICE

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The questions you can vote on and voice your opinions on this month are:

Should Congress support the President's trade policy on China? (See Page 10.)

Do you believe NATO is still needed? (See Page 30.)

Here's how you've voted in previous polls:

Should Congress end production of the Stealth bomber?

Yes 40% No 60%

Has American business lost its competitive edge?

Yes 75% No 25%

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learning that I was a native-born American and had also volunteered from an internment center to serve in the Pacific campaign in the military intelligence services, my questioner said he served in the Battle of the Bulge and became very friendly.

Has it come to a stage where those of us of Japanese or other Asian descent have to carry our birth certificate, Army discharge papers, or wear an "I'm an American" badge?

*Arthur T. Morimitsu
Chicago*

Still Missing

I commend National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco for his very strong, positive statement against normalizing relations with Vietnam until a full accounting of our POWs is made (Commander's Message, March). To abandon our prisoners of war and missing in action for the political expediency of normalizing relations with Vietnam would be a dishonor and would be equivalent to signing their death warrant.

The article "The Men We Left Behind" (March) should unify The American Legion from top to bottom in demanding the declassification of all information in government files pertaining to live prisoners of war from all wars.

As the father of an unreturned prisoner of war, I sincerely thank The American Legion for its strong stance in support of our missing comrades.

*Earl P. Hopper Sr.
Glendale, Ariz.*

Editor's note: Earl P. Hopper Sr. is vice chairman of Task Force Omega, a private group dedicated to resolving the POW/MIA issue. He spoke at the National Convention in Phoenix last year.

I would like to respond to "The Men We Left Behind" (March).

First, while there are 2,266 Americans yet unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, only 1,172 of those individuals are truly missing in action. One thousand ninety-four of the unaccounted for comprise individuals who were known to have been killed in action but due to circumstances at the time, could

not be recovered. The implication that there could be as many as 2,266 Americans alive in Indochina is simply not true.

Second, reports of Americans alive in Indochina receive the most urgent investigative priority. We follow up each live-sighting report to the extent permitted by the governments of Indochina. We apply the entire spectrum of U.S. intelligence collection efforts in order to investigate and resolve these reports.

Third, your article leaves the reader with the impression that the United States is not making an honest effort to resolve the fates of unaccounted for Americans. From Secretary Cheney on down, the Department of Defense is committed to finding the answers for the families.

Dwelling on the past mistakes will not bring back any Americans. We must look to the future and plan and implement effective measures that will achieve our national policy—the fullest possible accounting of all those still missing.

*Alan C. Ptak
Deputy Assistant Secretary
of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs*

Irregular

I want to contradict James Q. Wilson's statements about regulation ("How Much Regulation Do We Really Need?" May). The deregulation of airlines created chaos in pricing and airline competition. Wilson is poorly informed about the airline industry. Having owned a travel agency for many years, I believe everything he said about airline regulation is 100 percent incorrect.

 *Bill Gardner
Virginia Beach, Va.*

Death March

Thank you for publishing "The Bataan Death March" (April). I made the march and was in Camp O'Donnell. I experienced 42 months of the Japanese's inhuman treatment. I also thought you would like to know, the picture at the bottom of Pages 20-21 is not a picture of the march but of the burial detail from the Filipino section of

Camp O'Donnell. Those bodies were being carried to be interred in a mass grave.

*R.D. Evans
Rome, Ga.*

On behalf of Filipino-American veterans, I thank you for publishing the article about the Bataan Death March.

*David L. Vivero
Kissimmee, Fla.*

Corrections

- Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught was misidentified in the article "America Remembers" (May). In addition, the Women In Military Service Memorial needs \$11 million by November 1993, not November 1992, as reported.

- The section about veterans' burials in the "Pension and Death Benefits" chapter of *The American Legion Handbook of Veteran's Benefits* (May) contained errors. Below is the correct section in its entirety. Readers may want to cut and paste this over the original version.

VA BURIAL ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible for burial at a national cemetery or a VA-sponsored state veterans' cemetery if you have a discharge that is other than dishonorable.

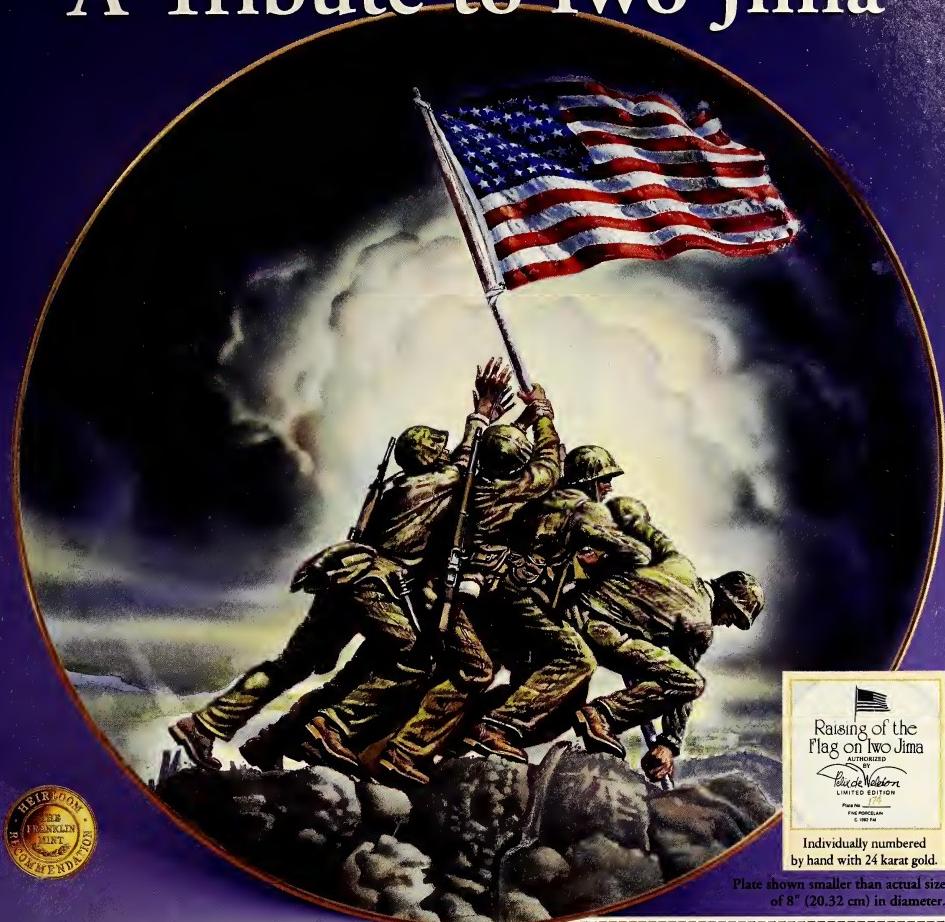
Also eligible for VA burial are servicemen and women who die on active duty. If you meet the eligibility requirements, you are entitled to burial at one of VA's 113 national cemeteries or at a VA-approved state cemetery. Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia is administered by the Department of the Army. Burial there is mostly limited to career Armed Forces personnel.

However, you may be cremated and your burial urn placed in a vault niche at Arlington. Eligibility requirements are the same for this as in any other national cemetery.

In addition, your spouse and dependent children are eligible for burial with you at VA-approved cemeteries.

Reservists and National Guard members are not eligible for burial benefits at national cemeteries unless death occurs while serving under honorable conditions on active duty for training or performing full-time service. □

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SACRIFICING VA WILL NOT HELP VETERANS, BUT TOUGH CHOICES ARE AHEAD

FOR SOME, VA medical service is a candidate for artificial respiration, an organ that should be primed and pumped with supplemental funds to keep it going. Others say we should pull VA's plug, and put an end to its misery.

Fellow Legionnaires, we must act now to protect VA medical care before it's too late. We must prepare ourselves for a long and difficult fight against those who would take VA medical care away from veterans. We must join forces to redirect hostility against VA into constructive criticism.

Here's what must be done:

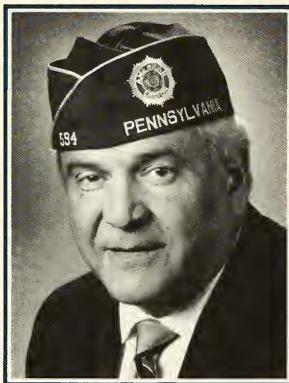
- Under no circumstances can we allow VA to be melded with a national health-care system. Numerous legislative proposals have been introduced to begin dismantling the current VA health-care system. We cannot allow national health care to become a substitute for VA. VA must be used as a model, a building block for such a system.

- VA must evolve its services to meet the needs of more than 250,000 homeless veterans. Today, VA has programs for them in only 26 states.

- VA must also prepare for the growing population of aging veterans. Over the next two decades, the number of veterans over age 75 will increase 193 percent. VA must prepare itself for a greater demand for long-term care, including adult day care, domiciliary care, geriatric ambulatory care, home health care and respite care.

- New funding sources are needed for VA. With more federal budget cuts on the way, we need to allow non-service-connected veterans to use Medicare funds to pay for care at VA hospitals.

- VA needs to address the needs of women veterans, who will number 1.3 million by the year 2000, according to VA estimates. Services are needed to accommodate women, including gyneco-



Nat'l Cmdr. Dominic D. DiFrancesco

cology, mammography and other female medical requirements. VA must plan for these needs.

- VA's medical services must not be opened up to non-veterans, who could drain the system's limited resources. The ill-conceived Rural Health Care Initiative, which proposed to admit non-veterans to two rural VAMCs, may rear its head again after the November election. We must be ready to fight it.

- Finally, VA must live up to its mission and not put a price on a veteran's service. All eligible veterans with service-connected injuries must be able to receive medical care. Those who have sacrificed have earned treatment.

There is no federal agency that has VA's potential to develop cost controls for long-term health care. Few federal agencies reach out to their constituents on the grass-roots level like VA does. But all is not right with VA.

For some veterans, VA has become a four-letter word. Turned away and denied treatment, they have come to resent the system. Sooner or later, VA is going to have to win the support of its

constituents, if it is to survive.

At one time, nearly any veteran who needed treatment could get help from VA. Those times are gone. Once thought of as the greatest veterans' advocate, today VA is often viewed as a bastion of evil accountants.

VA must decide how to represent and serve veterans. If this new perception persists, VA's allies cannot successfully defend the agency in its hours of need.

VA needs to listen to veterans—find out what they need. Planning for the year 2000 will require more than computer analysis and projections. It will require close attention to veterans' changing needs.

There is no fool-proof way to help VA turn the corner on its problems and escape from those who wish to cut its budget or abolish it entirely. But considering that VA accounts for only 2 percent of all federal spending, it cannot be held responsible for the federal deficit. And it should not be a target for budget-cutters.

With its network of 172 hospitals, 126 nursing homes, 45 independent clinics, 32 domiciliary care units and 196 readjustment counseling centers, VA has the capacity to treat 1 million veterans on an inpatient basis and can handle some 23 million outpatient visits each year.

The American Legion respects the value and contributions of VA's dedicated doctors, administrators and health-care professionals. But we also can be one of the agency's most vocal critics, when necessary.

We must pressure VA to improve because number-crunchers have convenient memories. They remember our complaints but not our praise. They recall the effect, but forget the cause.

We are living in tough times, and money is tight. But there are times when you stop counting change and do what is right.

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SHOULD CONGRESS SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S TRADE POLICY ON CHINA?

Sen. Max Baucus (D-Montana)

Placing conditions on China's Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status is the wrong way to reform China.

Some will defend China's human rights abuses, erection of unfair trade barriers and sales of dangerous weapons technologies. But placing conditions on China's MFN status will not right those wrongs. Putting conditions on MFN status is almost certain to set back U.S. efforts to spur reform in China.

The term "Most Favored Nation" status is a misnomer. The term implies that it is a special status that we extend only to our closest trading partners. MFN is actually only minimum trade status—the trade equivalent of diplomatic recognition. MFN status is currently extended to Iran, Iraq, South Africa and Libya—hardly our closest allies.

Advocates of placing conditions on MFN are quick to point out that the legislation does not revoke MFN—it merely puts conditions on future extensions of MFN. Unfortunately, the conditions will not be met and, therefore, are tantamount to revocation. This legislation imposes 15 conditions on future extensions of MFN to China.

I support the goal behind every condition, but the unfortunate fact is that China is ruled by a totalitarian regime. Given the choice between remaining in power and retaining MFN, they are almost certain to choose remaining in power.

Reliable press reports indicate that China's hard-line Marxists are concerned that closer ties with the West will bring dangerous ideas, like democracy, to south China.

As we learned at Tiananmen Square, Chinese leaders are willing to use a pretext to crackdown and cut ties with the West.

It is entirely possible that the mere passage of legislation that conditions MFN could be used by China's hard-line leaders as an excuse to break commercial ties with the United States.

The United States has been working to improve trade relations with China. Recent legislation has put an end to Chinese piracy of intellectual property and Chinese goods made with prison labor.

Clearly there is still progress to be made. But, most favored nation trading status is simply the wrong tool to use to win reform in China.

YES



Rep. David E. Skaggs (D-Colorado)

NO



Nearly three years ago, Americans were glued to television sets watching dramatic events unfold in China. Thousands took to Tiananmen Square in pro-democracy marches and protests. Then, to our horror, the government of China launched a brutal military crackdown.

The Chinese government has continued to oppress its citizens, to sell missiles to the Middle East and to engage in unfair and restrictive trade practices.

Should it be a business-as-usual approach that hopes the Chinese government will improve its ways, or a tougher, carrot-and-stick approach that ties American actions to demonstrated improvements in those ways?

The key question has been whether the United States should extend unrestricted Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status to China.

For now, at least, the business-as-usual approach is winning. The President has vetoed a bill to tie renewed MFN treatment of China to definitive improvements in its human-rights, trade and arms policies.

We shouldn't ignore the effects on our economy of China's practice of limiting foreign access to its markets, exporting to us goods made with prison labor, piracy of software and other U.S. intellectual property rights, and deliberately mislabeling products to evade U.S. Customs.

Maintaining our permissive stance has led to a \$12.7 billion trade deficit with China, now second only to that with Japan.

Nearly three years after their massacre of protesters in Tiananmen Square, China's rulers continue their fundamental disrespect for the rights of Chinese citizens.

Let us not be misled by the President's claims that putting any conditions on extending MFN status for China will isolate Chinese reformers. On the contrary, giving China preferential trade treatment can only strengthen the hand of the governmental hard-liners who believe they can break any promise or law and face no consequences. The United States is long overdue in taking a strong stand against China's immoral and unlawful actions.

The people of China deserve the chance to join in the march toward freedom.

VETVOICE (900) 740-VETS

To voice your thoughts on anything in THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, call VETVOICE (900) 740-VETS. You can vote on current issues, receive a tally that includes your vote, record your opinion, and hear opinions of others. Calls cost \$1 per minute and proceeds support Legion programs.



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A Journey To Hanoi

Former Congressman John LeBoutillier, always outspoken on the POW/MIA issue—he once argued for paying reparations to Hanoi for POWs—has generated even more controversy. At press time, he was planning a communist Vietnam trip financed by U.S. business interests who are anxious for trade with Hanoi. Some POW/MIA activists say the idea is bold, while others say it is a dangerous trap.

Working with the Vietnam America Trade and Investment Consulting Corporation (Vatico), LeBoutillier claims the backing of several POW/MIA groups hoping to resolve the issue by searching on the ground for Americans in Southeast Asia. However, LeBoutillier said he wouldn't make the trip unless Vietnam agreed to "no-notice, on site-inspections" of any facilities suspected of holding POW/MIA. If Americans are located, LeBoutillier says there should be no retribution against Vietnam for holding them.

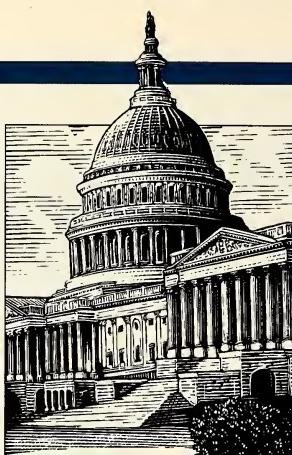
Skeptics say Hanoi would try to manipulate the delegation and hide the POWs. Vatico says it hopes his trip will result in the United States lifting its trade embargo on Vietnam, and that it provides opportunities for American businessmen eager to get a piece of the economic action already being exploited by the Japanese.

Chernobyl In Cuba

U.S. policy-makers are increasingly nervous about continued Russian construction of a nuclear power plant in Cuba. President Yeltsin agreed to continue the project as long as Cuba paid in hard currency. A U.S. government study found that a Chernobyl-type disaster in Cuba could produce a radioactive cloud over most of the Eastern seaboard and portions of Texas and Louisiana. Security experts want Yeltsin to be asked about it during his U.S. visit.

Clinton-Bradley Ticket?

Apparent Democratic Presidential nominee Bill Clinton is expected to pick New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley as his running mate. Bradley has geographical appeal. But he also has something in common with Hillary Clinton—advocacy of children's rights. Bradley, co-chairman of the Advisory



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

Council on the Rights of the Child, has been pressuring the Bush administration to submit for ratification a United Nations treaty on children's rights.

But a Clinton campaign built around the theme of protecting America's children will be countered by charges, already aired by public television, that the Arkansas child welfare system was a disaster under the governor.

Airline Protest

A revolt is brewing against the fare changes announced by the airline industry. The airlines say almost everyone stands to gain from the elimination of discount plans and rates. But the reduction in coach fares doesn't match the bigger cuts in fares for first class and business passengers.

In addition, the cuts still don't match the discounts which existed for military personnel and those who had to travel at a moment's notice because of medical emergencies. But airline executives are expected to issue orders accommodating hardship and bereavement cases.

Military Perks

Pentagon officials are reported to be seething over a congressionally mandated study of recreational activities for soldiers and their families at military bases. The morale, welfare and recre-

ation (MWR) programs are supposed to be made more efficient so they are not perceived as perks.

In retaliation, expect Congress to come under renewed attack for its use of military aircraft on domestic and foreign junkets. Most of these costs are absorbed by the Pentagon. Washington's use of military personnel as pilots, chefs and chauffeurs is also destined to become a hot topic.

Meanwhile, the Navy's operation of the congressional medical clinic may come to an end. Congress is now being charged for the medical care and drugs that used to be free.

SDI Spending

The Congressional decision to spend \$4.15 billion on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) in the 1992 defense budget was good news to Star Wars advocates. The SDI spending surpasses last year's by more than \$1 billion but didn't meet President Bush's request for \$5.4 billion. Although the plan only calls for a ground-based anti-missile site, SDI supporters are optimistic that interest will grow in technologies such as the "Brilliant Pebbles" anti-missile defense system in space.

Russia Vs. Ukraine

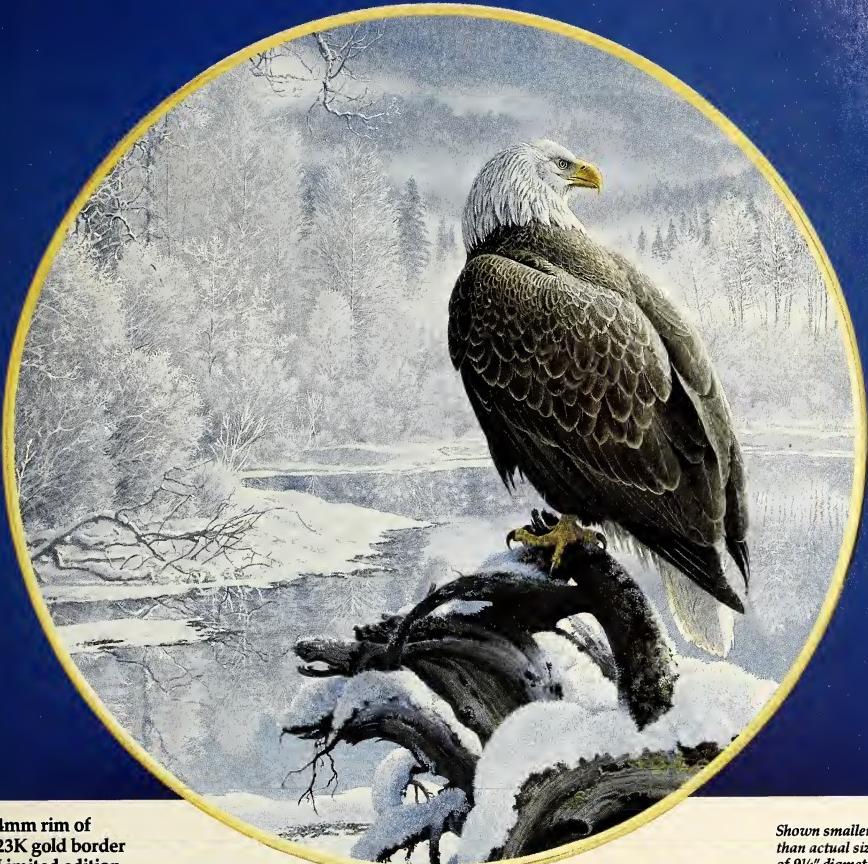
Relations between Russia and the Ukraine are deteriorating, with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk seeking the West's protection against his neighbor. Members of the Ukrainian National Assembly who visited Washington have been spreading tales of secret Russian paramilitary forces being financed by the West. In response, they are creating a national defense force of their own. They say Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskoy, a decorated soldier in the Soviet-Afghan war, is the leading force behind a resurgence of Russian imperialism. Rutskoy has recently been leading efforts to free Soviet POWs from liberated Afghanistan.

Recognize Kurdistan

The President is coming under growing pressure to grant diplomatic recognition to oil-rich Kurdistan in northern Iraq. Supporters say the move would defang Iraq and help stabilize the region. But, U.S. recognition is probably not forthcoming because Turkey, a strong U.S. ally in the Gulf War, fears an independent Kurdistan on its border. □

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.

A Breathtaking Portrayal of America's Proud Symbol



- 4mm rim of 23K gold border
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Shown smaller than actual size of 9 1/4" diameter

A majestic bald eagle "stands watch" over the Chilkat River in south-eastern Alaska. Known as the "Bald Eagle Council Grounds," this official bald eagle preserve often hosts thousands of the mighty birds—attracted to the salmon that come to spawn in the naturally spring warmed waters.

Now, this hauntingly beautiful scene has been captured on fine porcelain by award-winning artist John Pitcher in "Winter in the Valley." One of four spectacular works from the *Seasons of the Bald Eagle* Plate Collection, "Winter in the Valley" premieres this series of original art portraits depicting eagles in various locations during the different seasons of the year.

Each issue will be enhanced with a generous 4mm 23K gold rim, numbered on its reverse, and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity in an edition limited to a total of 14 firing days. As an owner of

Winter in the Valley

"Winter in the Valley," you will have the right—but never the obligation—to acquire each issue in the *Seasons of the Bald Eagle* collection as presented to you. The Hamilton Collection 100% Buy-Back Guarantee allows you to return any plate within 30 days of receipt for a prompt replacement or full refund.

As the first collector plate series from this award-winning artist, "Winter in the Valley" represents a superb collecting opportunity for wildlife art enthusiasts. Applications will be considered in order of receipt. Submit yours today!

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Limit: Two plates per collector

Please accept my application for _____ (1 or 2) "Winter in the Valley" plate(s) at \$37.50* (plus \$2.68 shipping and handling) each, payable in 2 monthly installments of \$_____ (\$20.09 for 1 or \$40.18 for 2 plates). Check one: UTM1 OH AA Check or money order enclosed Charge my: Visa MasterCard Amer. Exp.

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All applications must be signed and are subject to acceptance. Please allow 6-8 weeks from receipt of your application for shipment.

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ALL ABOARD FOR CHICAGO

The Legion plans to stand its ground and fight for the rights of America's veterans at the 74th National Convention.

LOOKING for excitement, soft music and hard issues? Why not join some 20,000 fellow Legionnaires at The American Legion's 74th Annual National Convention, Aug. 21-27, in Chicago? You won't

regret it.

Imagine a breathtaking skyline view of Chicago from floor-to-ceiling windows. Imagine an elegant ballroom, crowned by an 80-foot domed ceiling, filled with the sounds of WWII music. Imagine WWII aircraft flying overhead, a husband and wife daredevil team who walk on a biplane's wings in mid-flight and a parachuting team that carries the Chicago flag on its descent.

No need to imagine it. This year's Convention festival, held at Chicago's historic Navy Pier along Lake Michigan, offers just such a spectacle. And more.

Vocalist Rosemary Clooney will be the headline attraction at the festival and will entertain Legionnaires with her renditions of WWII songs.

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of World War II, the festival's theme will be "Alliance for Freedom," in tribute to the Allies who defeated the Axis countries.



PEERLESS PIER—The Convention festival will be Monday, Aug. 24, on Chicago's Navy Pier.

You will be greeted as conquering heroes as you enter the Navy Pier through one of five spiraling balloon arches while a crowd of people cheer and a marching band signals your arrival.

IN THE crowd, you will see famous Hollywood personalities, clowns, jugglers, magicians, mimes and women dressed as 1940s-style Wacs, Waves, Cigarette Girls and "Rosie the Riveter" factory workers. You will feel, taste and touch WWII America.

A classic car show will display automobiles from the 1940s to the present. If you're bringing your family, your children will love the petting zoo and playground at the Navy Pier, as well as the refreshing boat cruises along Lake Michigan.

The festival will take place Monday, Aug. 24, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Another convention highlight, the annual parade, is scheduled a day earlier, Sunday, Aug. 23. Some 14,000 people and 75 to 100 vehicles, including tanks and armored personnel carriers, will parade along North Michigan Avenue and congregate on Lower East Wacker Drive.

Military personnel representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard will join Legionnaires in the parade and will be accompanied by Legion Posts and high school bands.

A Sunday evening Bears-Steelers football game has prompted city officials to request the parade be over by 4 p.m., leaving only three hours, start to finish, for the event.

Despite all the glitter of the festival and parade, the Convention is still very much a work place for most Legionnaires. In national commission and committee meetings along the Chicago River at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Legionnaires will discuss the Legion's agenda to:

- preserve the VA health-system;
- stem the tide of swift comprehensive defense cuts;
- obtain a full accounting of U.S. POW/MIA's;
- push for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag from desecration;
- secure more stringent regulation of foreign lobbyists;
- press for a new GI Bill for Desert Storm Veterans; and
- seek reduced postal rates for The American Legion and other federally chartered veterans organizations.

Legion leaders have invited President George Bush and his Democratic opponent in this election year to speak before the Convention, and tell Legionnaires where they stand on issues that concern veterans.

With serious debate and spectacular celebrations, the 74th National Convention in Chicago is within driving distance for many Legionnaires. Amtrak, however, is offering a 10 percent discount for Legionnaires traveling to the Convention. For more information, call Amtrak at (800) USA-RAIL or (800) 872-7245. Ask for Fares Order X35A-918.

Also, Northwest Airlines will award one lucky Legionnaire registered at the Convention with a five night vacation package for two. □

Fourth of July Collector's Issue From the National Historic Mint

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- Nearly half-a-foot high!
- Embellished with Pledge of Allegiance!
- Embossed with American eagles!

Special "Fourth of July" offer. For the 100th anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance—the National Historic Mint is issuing genuine imported 8% lead crystal "Pledge of Allegiance" Crystal Dinner Bells for only \$5—guaranteed!—to the first 10,000 who respond.

Official National Historic Mint "Collectible"

Nationally publicized by The Mint in leading media, each bell is crafted of *genuine 8% lead crystal* with embossed American Eagles adorning two sides and the Pledge of Allegiance on the third side. Almost half-a-foot tall, they're perfect for mantel, tabletop or cabinet display.

SORRY—we reserve right to limit 5 per address and extend time and quantity guarantees. **Hurry!**

The National Historic Mint is a private corporation not affiliated as agent or otherwise with U.S. Government.

The Pledge of Allegiance Story

The Pledge of Allegiance was written nearly 100 years ago by Francis Bellamy. Enormously popular, it expressed the national spirit so well that it was eventually adopted by our government as the official Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and is now recited every day by schoolchildren throughout America. The Mint proudly commemorates this historic 100th anniversary with the Pledge of Allegiance Crystal Bell.



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YOUR AMERICAN LEGION



PRIDE—Legionnaires were the largest donors to The Wall building fund, contributing \$1.3 million.

A DECADE OF REMEMBRANCE

THE CROWD begins to thin as the sun slowly sinks and the shadows lengthen. A middle-aged man moves forward, his steps slow and halting, as if he was uncertain of his decision to leave the tree line where he had waited for hours.

He paces past the monument's reflective segments, searching for panel 14W. He stops and counts down the lines. There it is, the name he came to see.

He kneels, rummages in his pocket and pulls out a faded medal, laying it at the base of the panel. Then he reaches out and touches the name. The tears come—tears he's held in check for so many years. Now the healing can begin.

There, in the dwindling twilight, a

*The Wall
commemorates its
10th anniversary
this year. For
many veterans,
this memorial is a
place of healing.*



hand rests on his shoulder. And a stranger says, "Welcome home, brother. Welcome home."

This scene has been played out thousands of times in a variety of ways since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was erected in Washington, D.C., in 1982.

The Wall, as it is commonly

referred to, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year with special events, seminars and concerts. Millions of Americans—including Vietnam War veterans, and families and friends of U.S. servicemen and women killed in Vietnam—are expected to visit the 492-foot long black wall of granite this year. The National Park Service, caretakers of The Wall, says that today the children and even grandchildren of Vietnam veterans are among the 2.5 million visiting the Wall annually.

"The Wall is a healing place," says former Army Vietnam veteran Jan Scruggs, director of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF). "A lot of reunions are planned around the anniversary this year and we expect many veterans will be reunited for the first time since Vietnam."

Please turn to page 46

PEARL HARBOR

On December 7th 1941 the Japanese Imperial Navy launched a massive pre-emptive air strike against the U.S. Pacific Fleet, based at Pearl Harbor.

This act of aggression will be remembered as one of the most historically important events of the Second World War, bringing as it did, the United States of America into the conflict.

The models in this set represent typical vehicles used by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps during this period.



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Actual size of model



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Each set is presented in a special full color window display pack to ensure that the models remain in mint condition.

These are just two sets from the range of models you can collect in the popular "Days Gone" Series -

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I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Thirty-one words. Liberty. Justice. Indivisible. Under God. We've recited them so often and we know them so well, we don't have to think about them. But what do they mean? What do they really say? What do Americans really pledge?

By Fran Roberts

DOES the following sound familiar?

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,"
"and to the republic for which it stands,"
"on nation,"
"under God,"
"indivisible,"
"with liberty and justice for all."

The Pledge of Allegiance. We know it so well that we just rattle it off every time we recite it.

But what's it all about? What do those 31 words mean?

During the past year, American flags have been flown from houses and businesses in greater numbers than at any other time in recent years. Americans have proudly recited the Pledge of Allegiance at thousands of public and private gatherings.

But how often have we stopped to consider the words—and the meaning—of the Pledge of Allegiance?

From the time we enter school, we Americans recite the Pledge of Allegiance thousands of times. All too often, however, the words are rattled

Free-lance writer Fran Roberts' work has appeared in The New York Times, Prevention and other publications.

off in much the same fashion as a grammar school student reciting—for the umpteenth time—"Trees" or "Paul Revere's Ride" or "Flanders Fields." But the Pledge of Allegiance is not a classic bit of poetry. And it's not a bunch of words to be mindlessly repeated. It is, quite literally, a pledge. A vow. And every time we repeat it, we are reaffirming our commitment to the country we call "home."

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America . . ."

In these, the first 12 words, we state our voluntary commitment of loyalty to the flag that represents the United States.

The flag, whether called "Old Glory" or "The Stars and Stripes" or, simply, "the American flag," is a rectangular combination of red and white stripes, and white stars on a field of blue.

Historians have long argued the meaning of the stars and stripes.

Some say they stand for the white of liberty representing the separation from the mother country (red), with white on blue signifying the stars of heaven.

Others insist that the white stripes represent liberty bearing the red (stripes) of blood shed in the battle for

independence, and that the white stars of statehood are situated on a field of loyalty (blue).

The American flag is a symbol of freedom. It is a symbol of the open-heartedness toward others in time of need for which the United States is known throughout the world.

But in making this pledge, we are not vowing our loyalty to some pieces of cloth that have been sewn together according to a special design. We are vowing loyalty to the country that the flag represents: The United States of America.

" . . . and to the republic for which it stands . . ."

Republic? Isn't the United States a democracy?

The dictionary explains that a republic is "any political order that is not a monarchy . . . a constitutional form of government, especially a democratic one."

The United States of America is, indeed, a republic, and its flag of red, white and blue is its symbol.

More important, however, is the inclusion of the republic in the pledge of allegiance. When saying those words, the speaker is vowing his or her loyalty not only to a banner, but also to the nation that the banner represents.



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PATRIOTS' CREED—*The pledge is a vow, and every time we repeat it, we reaffirm our commitment to the country we call home.*

“...one nation under God...”

When this country was founded, there was as much emphasis placed on the worship of God as there was on allegiance to the government. The original pledge of allegiance was first published in 1892 and the wording was somewhat different than it is today.

But the nation's relationship to God was evident even before the Declaration of Independence was dreamed. King James of England reportedly charged early settlers to establish their colonies in strict accordance with God's laws and cautioned them against feeling so self-sufficient that they didn't look to their Divine

Please turn to page 52

Legionnaires Rally Round The Flag

LEGIONNAIRES could not believe what they heard in June 1989. The Supreme Court said in its *Texas v. Johnson* decision that it was OK to burn the U.S. Flag. But the shock and disbelief of Legionnaires nationwide soon became iron-willed resolve.

Legionnaires knew there was a job to be done: protect the flag. And Legionnaires knew the best way to get that job done: a constitutional amendment.

In a national campaign, the Legion is urging its members to convince their state legislatures to pass memorializing resolutions to protect the flag. At press time, 25 states have adopted such resolutions.

These resolutions ask Congress to write a narrowly drawn constitutional amendment. This amendment, if ratified by 38 states, would become the law of the land.

“The words of the Pledge of Allegiance mean much to every Legionnaire, just like the Stars and Stripes,” says National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco. “The only way to protect the flag is with a constitutional amendment. Legionnaires believe this, and so do most Americans.”

Since the *Texas v. Johnson* decision, the Legion has passed several resolutions at its national conventions calling for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag from physical desecration. The most recent was Res. 172, unanimously passed at the 73rd National Convention in Phoenix last year.

Support nationwide for an amendment to protect the flag has increased since the Supreme Court decision. According to a November 1991 Gallup Poll commissioned by The American Legion, three out of four Americans said they wanted a constitutional amendment to make flag burning illegal.

In a similar Gallup Poll in
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3 PEOPLE PER SECOND

TICK... TICK...



ILLUSTRATED BY THEO RUOMA

TICK...

The population time bomb hasn't gone away. It keeps on ticking: 5.4 billion now, another billion every decade. If we don't defuse it soon, it will destroy our home—Earth.

By Gary Turbak

AGENERATION ago, America buzzed with the belief that the world would soon have too many people. *The Population Bomb*, written in 1968 by Stanford professor Paul Ehrlich, became a bible for the then-fledgling environmental movement that said the Earth was going to hell in a baby buggy.

But the population explosion, the global famine and population wars that were predicted did not happen.

Was it just another group of alarmists crying "wolf?" Not by a long shot. The threat has not been defused, and the population bomb continues to tick away today, closer than ever to exploding.

In the two decades since anxiety over the world population slipped from the limelight, the number of humans on our planet has risen a whopping 50 percent—from 3.6 billion to 5.4 billion. And they are still climbing.

"Humanity is quickly breeding itself into a corner," write Ehrlich and his wife, Ann, in their new book, *The Population Explosion*.

History supports the Ehrlichs' conclusions. For many millennia, human population grew at an incredibly slow

pace. In 8000 B.C., Homo sapiens numbered only about 5 million. By 1550, there were still only half a billion people, and it was taking 1,500 years for the population to double.

Then came the explosion. In less than 200 years, human numbers doubled. A century later, they doubled again. The last doubling—to 5.4 billion people—took only 39 years.

Every decade now, another billion people join the planet. In 1990 alone, the human tally rose by 96 million—an increase of 263,000 people every day, 11,000 every hour. In the seven seconds it takes you to read this sentence, the world will increase by 21 people.

About a billion of these souls live in wretched poverty, and the living standards of another 3 billion resemble those of the United States a century ago.

The Population Crisis Committee, a Washington, D.C., organization that promotes global family planning, recently surveyed international living conditions. It found that in 74 nations—containing about 70 percent of all people—human suffering was either high or extremely high. Fifty-six other countries—with only 30 percent of the people—had moderate or minimal suffering.

The nations with the most human misery have runaway populations that double every 17 to 35 years. Conversely, the best living conditions are in nations with slow growth rates.

Increasing urbanization adds to the problem by creating massive zones of

squalor and crime. In 1950, only the cities of New York, London and Shanghai had more than 10 million people. Today, 15 cities are that large, and one—Mexico City—is home to 23 million.

Today's teeming masses also pose a significant threat to the Earth itself. In fact, many observers now view population and environment as a single issue.

Acid rain, oil spills, global warming, plant and animal extinction, garbage gluts, ozone depletion, desertification, air and water pollution, nuclear waste, deforestation, soil erosion and resource consumption—they're all tied to burgeoning human numbers.

"The size of the human population affects virtually every environmental problem facing our planet," says Susan Weber, executive director of Zero Population Growth (ZPG), a Washington, D.C., watchdog group on population issues.

JUST as a square mile of forest can sustain only a given number of deer, there are limits to the number of people the Earth can support. In some areas—Mexico City and probably even New York and Los Angeles—people have already exceeded those limits, says Dianne Sherman, ZPG communications director.

A precise tool for tracking population is the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the average number of children a woman bears in her lifetime. With a national TFR of 2.1—which means each woman is essentially replacing herself and her mate—a country's population eventually will level off. The extra .1 accounts for children who die before reaching reproductive age.

Actual stabilization of a population may be a long time coming, however, because births may continue to exceed deaths for decades after a nation reaches a 2.1 TFR.

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Montana-based Gary Turbak is a regular contributor to this magazine.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Crisis Can Be Solved

While the world copies our federal system of government, cities and states struggle with less money, more poverty and more crime. The answer is local people finding local solutions, says government expert Richard P. Nathan.



CAUGHT BETWEEN rising demands for costly services and taxpayer resistance to paying the bills, state and local governments are in a jam. The solution? Get better, says Dr. Richard P. Nathan, an authority on state and local government problems.

Nathan, distinguished professor of political science and public policy at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs, State University of New York at Albany, spoke with THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine for the fourth of our series, "Inside The Government Machine."

American Legion Magazine: Dr. Nathan, cities and states face mounting demands for public services even while their revenues are shrinking badly, forcing them to try to raise taxes. How bad is this state/local budget crisis?

Dr. Richard Nathan: In the 1980s, with a stronger economy, state and local governments often ran surpluses and were able to do more. But with the recession, with federal aid being cut and many problems deepening, big cities and particularly the distressed inner city neighborhoods face mounting trouble.

Q. What can be done about it?

A. In Washington people tend to think in terms of easy answers, but the inner cities are dangerous places and the people who live there are caught up in multiple problems of drugs, welfare dependence, lack of jobs, family breakups, crack babies, AIDS and homelessness.

The worse problems are getting more severe, although

we tend to think of the underclass as much bigger than it really is. Even so, poverty is more concentrated in the cities, and that creates enormous challenges for both the big cities and their states.

We've found that throwing money at them just doesn't work. What we have are people problems, and they can be solved only by people.

Q. Aren't the problems worsened by taxpayer and business flight from the inner city?

A. That's been historically true because people don't want to live in these distressed and dangerous neighborhoods, and I'm speaking of both white and black people.

The concentration of the underclass in the inner city is due in part to the success of the American civil rights revolution, which has enabled many blacks, Hispanics and immigrant groups to move to better areas.

Q. Is there any city that is doing well in tackling these problems?

A. We're now seeing lots of successes. Brave people are doing great things working in their communities. When you go out and meet these people who are doing heroic jobs under great odds without much pay or thanks, you have to conclude that there is hope.

As for particular cities that are doing a good job, one has to stipulate, first, that the United States doesn't have a nationwide urban crisis. What we have are some older cities, particularly those that have very large concentrations of the poor and minorities, cities which are losing businesses and jobs—these are the cities where the problems are the worst.

Q. Is a metropolitan-area government system part of

HIGHLIGHTS

Richard Nathan On...

The crisis: "The inner cities are dangerous places. But the United States doesn't have a nationwide urban crisis. We have some older cities where the problems are the worst."

The underclass: "We forget that the people who live in the worst slums are really a small group—maybe 3 million."

The answer: "It is not more money. The answer is values, working with people to take care of their families to get them out of the places where welfare is most concentrated."

Hope: "When you meet the people who are doing heroic jobs under great odds without much pay or thanks, you have to conclude there is hope."

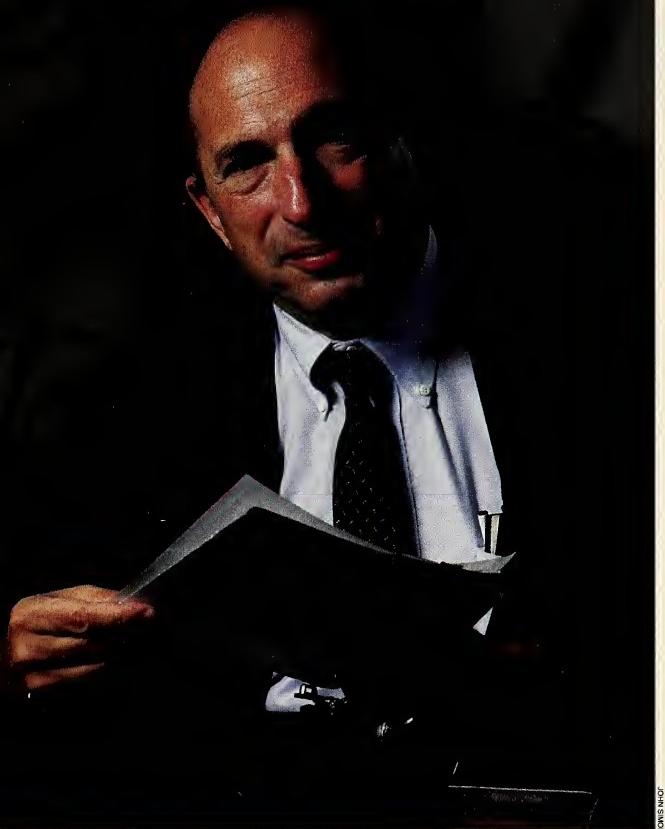


PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. KATZ

the answer in terms of building a broader, stronger base for action?

A. That's important. Older cities have the worse problems, in part because their boundaries were set a 100 years ago. That should be contrasted with cities that are newer, particularly in the south and west, where their boundaries extend across a much greater territory. Like Nashville, Oklahoma City, Jacksonville—and Indianapolis, which merged with surrounding Marion County.

Thus, the whole region can be treated as an economic entity for development and for dealing with the problems of the city core.

Q. Is there any real hope of eliminating the slums and restoring the physical appearance of blighted city areas?

A. Well, there are some very good things that are being done.

There's a group called the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), which raises money from large corporations and then loans that money to community development corporations (CDCs). CDCs all over the country build housing and commercial centers. James Rouse, the noted developer, has a similar organization called the Enterprise Foundation.

So, there are people in the south Bronx, in Cleveland and elsewhere who are buying houses and fixing them up and creating better neighborhoods.

Q. But does that solve the problem of teaching the underclass to take care of those neighborhoods?

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A CONGRESSIONAL SCANDAL

THAT TOUCHES EVERY AMERICAN

By William S. Broomfield

THE AMERICAN people have had it up to here with declining postal service and rising postal costs, yet Congress has turned its back on the issue. Why? Money. Campaign contributions. Political Action Committee (PAC) money controlled by postal union officials here in Washington. In 1987-88, the last election year cycle to be fully reported, the top eight postal PACs doled out more than \$3.5 million.

This is a congressional scandal that touches every household, every small business, every institution, large or small, in America.

At a time when it is getting harder and harder for two-earner families to get all the family chores done during the workweek, and when more and more businesses are staying open on weekends, the Postal Service is closing some of its post offices on Saturdays, reducing window hours at other post offices, and removing collection boxes from convenient locations.

And they are getting away with it. They're getting away with it because there's an unholy alliance of Postal Service management, postal union officials and congressional committee members who are supposed to be overseeing the operations of the Postal Service.

One might think that congressional committee members would be especially zealous in their effort to repre-

William S. Broomfield is a Republican Congressman from Michigan.

THE POSTAL
SERVICE GETS
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COSTS MORE.
BUT CONGRESS
LOOKS THE
OTHER WAY.
HERE'S WHY.

sent the public interest; instead they are purposely shielding the inner workings of this decaying institution from public view.

Last year I introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives that would create a blue-ribbon, bipartisan commission to look into the many constituent complaints that Congress has been getting about the U.S. Postal Service.

THE commission would investigate ways of improving management to provide better service at more reasonable prices.

The time is ripe for such a commission, yet the House committee that oversees the Postal Service is stonewalling the resolution. In fact, it has erected a stone wall around the operations of the Postal Service that is higher than the Tower of Babel and longer than the Great Wall of China.

Everywhere I turn, the Postal Service and their friends in Congress

are putting on a full court press. They intimidate members with the enormous clout the postal organization wields through strong-arm lobbying and PAC contributions.

Let me give you an example.

When I introduced the resolution last year, 127 fellow members of the House rushed to sign on as co-sponsors. That means that they supported this resolution as if it were their own legislation.

Members came up to me on the floor of the House and said, "Bill, I've been getting complaints from all over my district about the Postal Service. It's a mess. Sign me on."

It didn't take long for the postal-congressional complex to marshal its forces, particularly the postal unions. They had their lobbyists swarming all over Capitol Hill. In each case, the implication was the same: You support the Broomfield resolution and we're cutting you off. No more campaign contributions.

The first inkling I had of their political and financial muscle came when one fellow member and then another, both co-sponsors and strong supporters of the resolution, came up to me and asked me to withdraw their names as co-sponsors.

The reason? Money. The thousands upon thousands of dollars that the postal unions pour into each congressional race.

Twenty-three out of a total of 127 co-sponsors have since asked me to withdraw their names. In one case, a co-sponsor asked that his name be withdrawn, and then he later asked that it be restored. I like to think his constituents got so mad at him that he changed his heart. He finally realized whom he was sent to represent.

ROCKET MAIL

The future of mail delivery could be shaped by a bipartisan commission that would promote faster service at reasonable rates.

ties in Royal Oak, Mich.; Edmond, Okla.; and other locations in recent years are terrible but persuasive testimony to the problems that continue to fester under the management of the Postal Service.

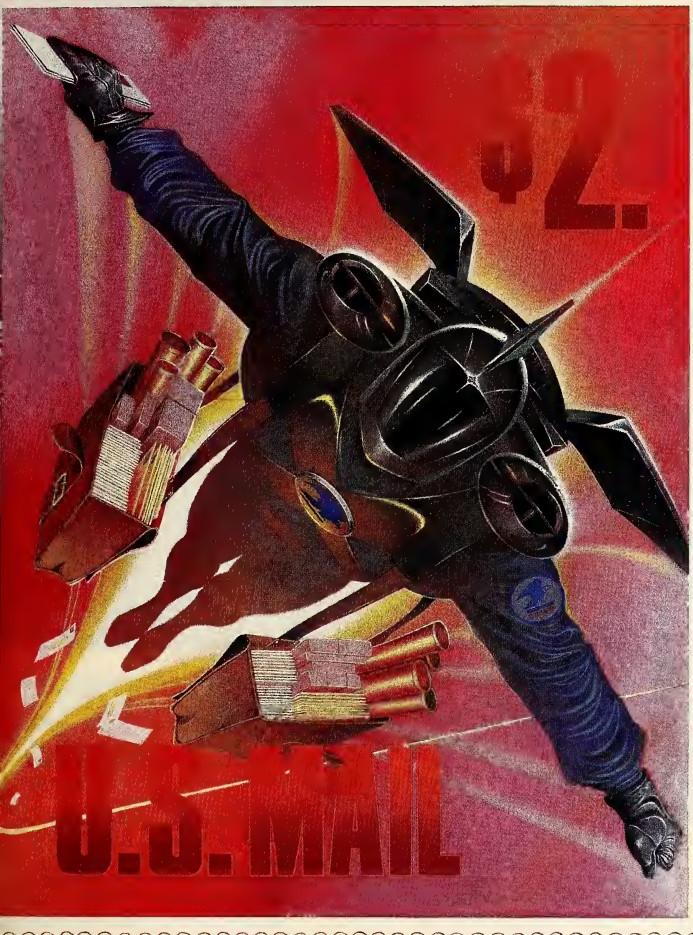
In the wake of the shootings in Royal Oak, I received a number of calls from postal employees in other areas of the nation. In each call the message was the same: working conditions are intolerable, and what happened at Royal Oak can happen again—and right here.

My resolution responds to their concerns and to those of millions of Americans who use the postal system and have watched it deteriorate.

Its monopoly position, its size, and the congressional committees that have shielded it from public scrutiny have given the Postal Service an indifference to the public interest that no other organization, public or private, could afford to assume.

It's been 22 years since the old Post Office was re-established as a quasi-independent agency. Twenty-two years should be enough time to see whether an organization is fulfilling its mandate, whether its structure is adequate to its mission, whether it is doing what Congress intended it to do.

It's time to take a fresh and impartial look at the system and see whether the American people are getting their money's worth. The people should be confident their Congress has the guts to do something about it. □



From my vantage point, I see the situation turning into a stand-off between two powerful forces. On one side are Postal Service management, postal union officials and their friends in Congress. On the other, the vast majority of the people they are supposed to serve—more than 100 million homes and businesses.

One postal union official from the Midwest wrote me to say that his union local had been the subject of a Postal Service campaign to sabotage

the proposed commission.

I've heard from postmasters, union officials, and men and women of the Postal Service who serve on the front lines.

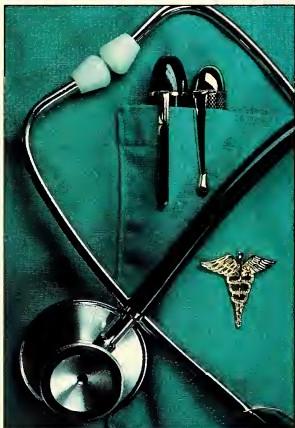
The workers who write us have a real stake in the Postal Service. They know that their organization could be managed a lot better, and they have the integrity, the courage and the civic responsibility to come forward and ask that something be done about it.

The mass shootings at postal facil-

HEALTH CARE

FOR AMERICA

Which Way To Go?



Government should stay out of the health-care business.

By John Hoff

AMERICANS receive the best health care in the world. But the health-care system has two major problems: cost of health care and the large number of people—15 percent of the population—who do not have any insurance at all.

The health-care system can do little to control the need for health care. But the way in which it provides care can be made more efficient.

There is widespread agreement that the system needs to be overhauled. Numerous bills have been introduced in Congress, and President Bush has outlined his plan in response to them.

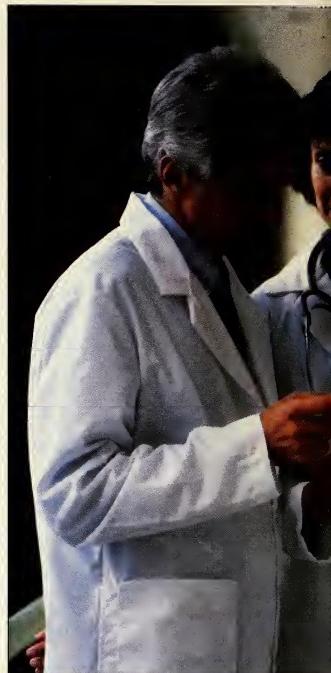
Although it may appear that the issue is merely how to extend insurance coverage for those who are uninsured and how to contain costs, the debate really is—or should be—more fundamental than that. The basic issue is whether the health system should be under the discipline and constraints of competition or controlled by government.

Most proposals for reform would greatly increase government control over health care. Under some proposals, the government would set a limit on the total amount Americans could spend for health care and set prices for every health-care service.

Other proposals call for a Canadian-style system, in which the government pays for everyone's health care and private insurance is outlawed. Because it spends the money, the government would decide how much to devote to health care and who gets it.

A third approach is to require employers to provide health insurance and, if they do not, force them to pay a tax supposedly to be used to supply government coverage.

"Play or pay," is the round-about way of introducing a Canadian system. Whether they play or pay, the cost of hiring a worker would increase and



many jobs would be lost.

These proposals are being thwarted by the healthy and common-sense argument that government control of health care would not work, and would produce a health-care system that was unacceptable to the people.

It is inconceivable that the government—which cannot even put its own budget in order—would be able to calculate what is the right amount of total expenditures for health.

The government has not been known for keeping its promises to those who rely on it for services, nor has it been known for conducting its operations efficiently.

Veterans, Medicare beneficiaries, the poor who receive Medicaid, Post Office patrons and numerous other Americans who receive government services can attest to that.

Inevitably, the government would

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John Hoff practices law in Washington, D.C., specializing in health-care matters.



CONSULTATION—The basic issue is whether the nation's health-care system should remain in the free market or be managed by the government.

Program" calls for expanded tax credits, vouchers and deductions, devotes little attention to financing or overall cost control.

And the Heritage Foundation, which would require universal purchase of health insurance, is nonetheless presented as "pro-competitive."

Others argue for "managed care," while the *New York Times* regularly extols something called "managed competition" as the right reform of American medical care. Congressman Marty Russo of Illinois, we are told, promotes Canada's universal health insurance as his model, while a strikingly similar proposal by Nebraska's Sen. Bob Kerrey is described by the media as "national health insurance."

It is almost impossible for most Americans to make sense of this hodgepodge.

Whatever approach reform takes, responsible advocates must at least answer the following key questions:

- What medical care will be insured?
- How do we pay for the medical care provided?
- How do we distribute the financial burden fairly?
- How do we place defensible borders on what we spend?
- How do we ensure that the system is accountable, and of reasonable quality and reliability, and is administered properly?

One advantage in being the last industrial nation to address this topic is that we can learn from the experiences of others. Other countries have controlled medical inflation by taking advantage of the power of monopoly—the advantage of having one purchaser, but many providers competing across the bargaining table.

Universal, but administratively decentralized health insurance is workable. Australia allows its states to administer their universal plans. West

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A national health-care plan, like Canada's, works best.

By Theodore R. Marmor

AS WE enter the full swing of the 1992 Presidential primary season, the American public is literally deluged with proposals for health-care reform.

No one seriously doubts that American medicine is in trouble. In 1991, total health expenditures were estimated to be more than \$800 billion—approaching 14 percent of the gross national product (GNP). Over 34 million Americans today are without health insurance and countless more are underinsured.

Some health insurance plans are failing; others struggle to contain premium increases with "managed care"

policies that alienate patients and physicians alike. Survey after survey finds a majority of Americans dissatisfied with the financing of American medicine and fearful about its future.

The undesirability of our medical arrangements has become common fare. But what is worse, Americans pay more for incomplete coverage than the citizens of other countries do for universal coverage.

Canada, France and West Germany, for example, provide universal coverage to their populations at a cost of 8 percent to 9.5 percent of their GNP. Britain, Japan and Australia do so for between 6 percent and 7 percent of their GNP.

The richest country in the world, spending a larger share of its GNP on health than any other industrialized democracy, should be able to do better.

The array of reform proposals, from minute tinkering to fundamental reform, is bewildering. President Bush, for example, whose \$100 billion "Comprehensive Health Reform

Theodore R. Marmor is professor of public policy and management at the School of Organization and Management, Yale University, and co-author of America's Misunderstood Welfare State.

PATENTED PROBLEMS

America's patent system, one of the founding fathers' greatest legacies, now is plagued by litigation, inefficiency, overload and even international piracy.

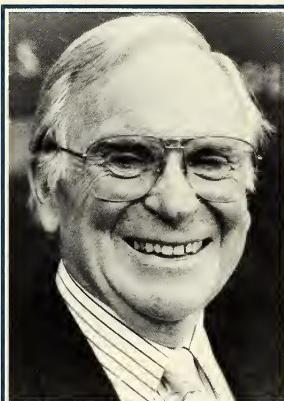
By Jay Stuller

ROBERT W. Kearns is an American hero, the proverbial "little guy" who waged a long and lonely battle against giant corporations. More than two decades ago, the engineer invented the intermittent windshield wiper, now a standard feature on most cars. But until a 1990 Detroit jury found that Ford Motor Co. had infringed on Kearns' patent and awarded him a \$10.2 million judgment, the inventor had earned virtually nothing from the device.

Last year, a federal jury decided that Chrysler had also infringed on the patent, a verdict that's paved the way for still more judgments or settlements

San Francisco-based Jay Stuller writes on a variety of subjects for this magazine.

AP/WIDEWORLD



LITTLE GUY—Robert Kearns battled corporate giants in a 20-year legal war to protect his wiper patent.

with at least 15 other car makers. But while Kearns hit a financial jackpot, the 64-year-old finds little comfort in the wealth. "All my friends are saying, 'You won,'" he said after the Chrysler verdict. "In truth, I lost."

What Kearns lost was time, nearly 20 years wiped away by legal challenges. Time during which royalties from licensing his invention might have been used to build a plant, equipment or a lab for researching still more inventions—productive assets that would thrive long after the expiration of the wiper patent.

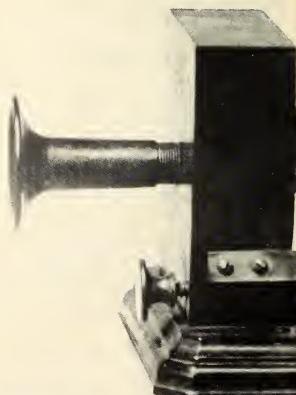
Although Kearns finally received much of his monetary due, the inventor's story reflects some of the strengths and mounting weaknesses in one of the nation's most venerable institutions, the U.S. patent system.

Critics claim that America's patent system is getting bogged down by long

delays in granting patents, which takes an average of 18 months, but can often take years. The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), located in Washington, D.C., received nearly 175,000 applications in 1990, a 39 percent increase over 1985. The patent applications were for everything from computer software to better mousetraps and new bacteria birthed by biotechnology. Given rapid growth in such science, the PTO estimates that by the turn of the century, filings will increase to some 300,000 annually.

The problems caused by the delays are compounded by confusing and often conflicting claims by different inventors, which can result in slow or thwarted development of new technology. In America, patent applications are held secret until the patent is actually issued. And under U.S. law, the person who can prove that he or she is the true originator of the idea or device—called the "first-to-invent" standard—wins the patent. If another inventor independently discovers the identical thing a day later, and even submits the first patent filing, the first-to-invent standard still holds.

FOR that reason, a business that forges ahead to develop a product from what may or may not be an original invention takes a risk. Should a judge later find that another person or company is the true patent holder, the business could find itself shut down by an injunction. As the Kearns case suggests, patents have increasingly become the subject of expensive lawsuits.



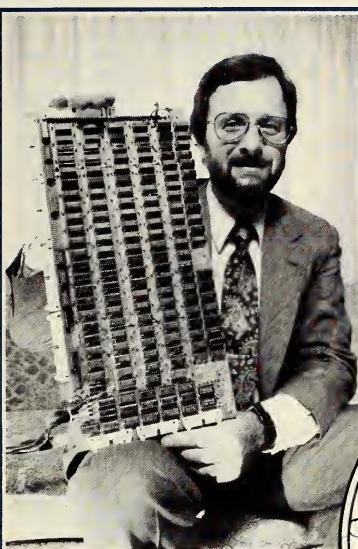
Since 1980 the volume of patent litigation has increased more than 50 percent. More than 5,700 lawsuits over patent infringements were filed in 1990. The cost of defending a patent in court averages between \$250,000 and \$2 million. If this sounds like a lot, keep in mind that "intellectual property," which ranges from movies to microbes and microchips, is one of the most valuable commodities of the 1990s.

Trademarked goods, copyrighted items and patented technology—be it in hard products or sold through licensing agreements—now accounts for more than 25 percent of all U.S. exports. According to Gary Hoffman, a Washington, D.C. attorney who specializes in intellectual property, infringements of American patents, copyrights and trademarks costs the U.S. economy some \$80 billion in lost sales.

Much of the patent piracy goes on overseas, in nations such as India,

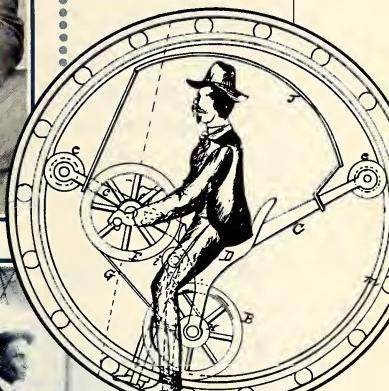
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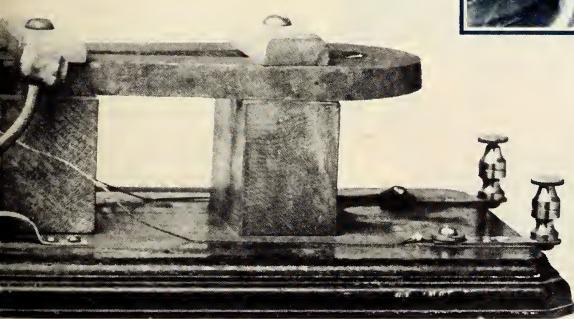
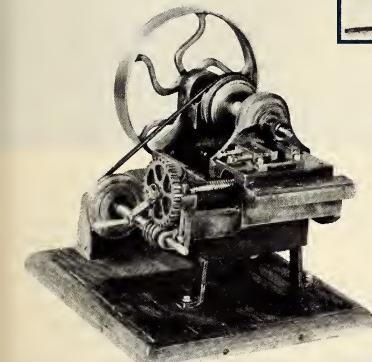
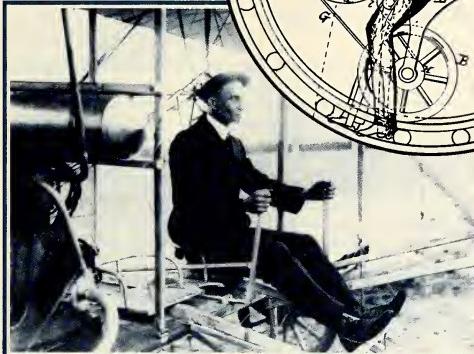


PATENTED IDEAS

MENT—*Gilbert Hyatt, left, won a 20-year legal battle for a computer chip patent. Richard C. Hemmings, below, patented his "Velocipede" in 1869. Wilbur Wright, bottom, patented the "New and Useful Improvements in Flying Machines" in 1906.*



PHOTOGRAPH BY THE WILBUR WRIGHT MUSEUM



AND MACHINES—
The first milling machine, above left, was patented by Eli Whitney. The Bell Telephone, left, was patented in 1877 by Thomas Edison, who holds the record for most patents by an individual.

WHY WE STILL NEED NATO

If the United States stays in Europe to help keep the peace, chances are we will not have to fight another war there.

By Gary L. Geipel

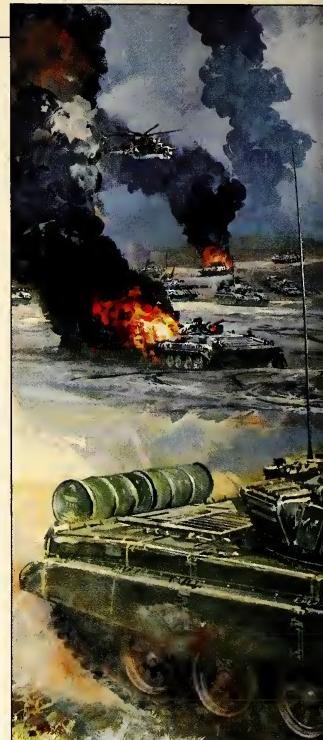
MANY OF Europe's leaders, institutions and countries have ended up in the trash can of history in recent years. In fact, we might even be tempted to believe that nothing from the Cold War was worth saving. That is

not true in at least one case.

The Cold War brought the United States and 16 European countries together in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which looms more important than ever in the new world of the 1990s.

The United States and Europe still need NATO for at least three important reasons:

- First, Europe remains a dangerous neighborhood, especially on its fringes. Thus, military forces cannot



be neglected.

- Second, if the United States stays in Europe to help keep the peace, chances are it will not have to fight any more wars there.

- Third, a good way to get a peace dividend and still maintain strong armed forces is to divide the burden of defense among several countries.

NATO delivers on all three counts.

The history of NATO is like the story of an arranged marriage in which the partners grow on each other. The NATO wedding took place in 1949, when western European countries still distrusted each other. But, since the threat of Soviet invasion loomed large, they realized that cooperation made more sense than going it alone.

The United States played the role of an honest broker—one who could provide the ultimate guarantee of protection.



AP/WIDEWORLD

NAVAL FORCE—America's USS Wisconsin was among the ships 12 NATO members sent to the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield.



GENERAL DYNAMICS

"NATO used to get criticized for doing a lot of sitting around and talking," said an official of NATO's Atlantic naval command in Norfolk, Va. "You bet the NATO countries talk. It sure beats fighting like they used to do."

All that talking in NATO helped develop the trust found in today's European Community, a group of countries that share a dream called the United States of Europe. NATO also kept the Soviet threat from turning into a commanding influence over western Europe, or worse, into all-out war.

Along the way, NATO accomplished something that no other military alliance had ever achieved: It became more than the sum of its parts.

Two admirals, an Italian and an American, commanded an exercise last March called Dog Fish. Under the Mediterranean Sea, 11 submarines from France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey and the United States tried to escape detection by multi-nation aircraft such as British Nimrods, French

WARLESS—With the end of communism in Europe, the threat of tank battles has disappeared. Now, NATO looks to its sea arm to project military power.

Atlantiques, and U.S. and Dutch P-3C Orions.

If any military activities on that scale can be called "routine," NATO has made them so in Dog Fish and many other international exercises—on the ground, in the air, and especially at sea—with intriguing names such as Northern Wedding, Reforger and Teamwork.

NATO also boasts a standing naval force in the Atlantic. The 27-year-old force still turns heads during port visits, as warships with names like Saguenay (Canada), *Commandante Roberto Ivens* (Portugal) and *Bloys van Treslong* (Netherlands) steam in together. Ships and commanders of the naval force rotate frequently, so that in any five-year period, as many as 70 captains and their crews gain experience operating under common rules

VETVOICE

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Do you believe NATO is still needed? Call to vote on this question and voice your opinion to (900) 740-VETS or (900) 740-8387. You can record a letter to the editor and listen to opinions of others.

Calls cost \$1 per minute and proceeds support Legion programs. Opinions from the Vetvoice line published in the magazine are indicated with a symbol.

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and obeying foreign commanders.

In peacetime, NATO nations keep ultimate control over their own forces; a captain can pull his vessel out on a moment's notice if his country needs it elsewhere.

NATO also guarantees civilian control. Political leaders from member countries, not admirals or generals, make the big decisions. NATO ensures that its naval commanders talk, plan, train and even develop some of their equipment together—so that if one or more of NATO's members are threatened, all can respond. Such preparation involves thousands of officers at dozens of NATO command posts in places as far-flung as Brussels, Heidelberg, Naples and Oslo.

NATO cooperation is not without its squabbles. Countries have different ideas about military threats and about how much to spend on armed forces. And the desire to keep their own industries strong causes many countries to back home-grown technologies over joint-development plans.

Still, the animosities of World War II are a distant memory. A newcomer to the noise and laughter of the officers' mess at NATO's naval command in Norfolk has to tell uniforms apart or scan for small lapel flags to detect the national origins of men and women whose camaraderie and common purpose took decades to evolve.

Please turn to page 54

Gary L. Geipel is a research fellow at the Indianapolis-based Hudson Institute's Center for Soviet and Central European Studies.

VA LOOKING AT \$900 MILLION SHORTFALL

THE DEPARTMENT of Veterans Affairs (VA) could wind up with almost \$1 billion less than it needs this year to properly deliver medical care to eligible veterans, says Rep. Harley O. Staggers Jr. of West Virginia.

Staggers claims the VA's fiscal year 1992 budget is short by as much as \$900 million.

VA's need for more money is nothing new. In fact, VA sources say that annual budget shortfalls are common, but are regularly overcome with supplemental funding from Congress each year. But, not this year, according to Staggers, who says that too much money is allocated to competing federal agencies such as the National Aeronautics and

Space Administration (NASA).

Staggers says that there are no funds remaining to supplement VA's \$13.6 million medical care budget and, as a result, several VA hospitals may be closed.

VA Secretary Edward Derwinski denies VA will have to close any hospital doors. But sources inside VA confirm there are money problems and say surgical wings of some hospitals may shut down.

Addressing VA's financial woes, Assistant VA Secretary for Finance and Planning S. Anthony McCann, says that "while there may have been isolated incidences and reports of problems, the problem has been greatly exaggerated."

"Yes, money is tight right now, and

VA could use an increase in funding, but we have seen a steady increase over the years. In 1989, VA medical care was funded at \$10.9 billion. The 1993 budget calls for \$14.6. That's a 33 percent increase in five years."

Representative Staggers, however, says VA is disproportionately underfunded when compared to other government programs.

"In the past five years, VA has seen a 17 percent increase in overall funding," Staggers says. "In comparison, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has experienced an 87 percent increase over the same period. The space program may be important, but I believe adequate funding of health care for our nation's veterans is more important."

Reserve Drawdown

The Department of Defense's (DoD) announcement that it will not provide transitional help for National Guard and Reserves has drawn an angry response from Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

DoD told the Senate Armed Services Committee this spring that it has no plans to assist the thousands of Guardsmen and reservists who will be mustered out of the service through defense cuts.

"It's a good thing we didn't go along with what the Secretary proposed last year," said Nunn. He was referring to Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's recommendation last year to reduce the Guardsmen and reservists by 105,000 in 1992.

Since that time, Cheney has announced plans to downsize or disband 830 National Guard and Reserve units, separating a total of 140,000 Guardsmen and reservists from military service by 1993.

GI Home Loans

Members of the National Guard and Reserves with at least six years service may soon become eligible for GI Home Loan benefits, if the Senate passes its version of H.R. 939, which passed the

House in March. The bill was proposed by Rep. Harley O. Staggers Jr. of West Virginia.

The legislation also includes a two-year pilot program allowing VA to approve loans based on Adjustable Rate Mortgages. Between two and 10 VA regional offices would participate in the test program.

Family Help

Gulf veterans will be eligible for free family and marriage counseling services, if H.R. 2280 becomes law. To be eligible, you must have received a campaign medal for active duty during the Gulf War, or you must have been a member of reserve components called to active duty during the war. The program will end Dec. 31, 1993.

The bill includes provisions to rehabilitate homeless veterans; extend VA's Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Program; increase funding for VA's domiciliary care services; and to broaden the treatment for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

POW Medal

If you or a member of your family were among those U.S. sailors detained in a Russian slave labor camp at the end of World War II, you are eligible for an Ex-Prisoner of War Medal from the

Secretary of the Navy. The medal is the result of the efforts of Legionnaire Donald W. Priem Jr., a Florida veteran service director, who fought the battle to get one of his veteran clients recognized as a POW by VA. The Department of the Navy is trying to locate anyone who was held in a Russian slave labor camp after World War II.

For more information, contact: Donald W. Priem Jr., Veteran Service Officer, 407 E. Alfred St., Tavares, FL 32778; (904) 343-9753.

Military Pensions

If you receive a military retirement pension and live in a state that does not tax state or local employee pensions, you may soon see more in your retirement check.

The Supreme Court ruled in April that a state that doesn't tax state and local employee retirement pensions cannot tax military retirement pensions.

At least two states—Virginia and Kansas—will be effected by the ruling. As of 1991, 33 states and the District of Columbia taxed military retirement pay.

In reaching its decision, the court did not address whether states owed retroactive refunds to veterans who had been unfairly taxed by them. Lawsuits seeking refunds have already been filed against Virginia and Kansas. □

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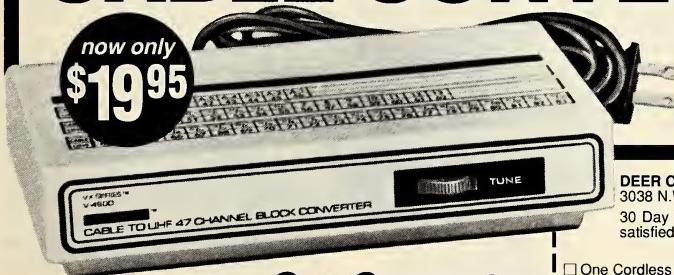
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VA IN CRISIS

LEGION CALLS FOR ACTION

National Executive Committee offers a comprehensive reform package to save the VA health-care system.



FIRM RESOLVE—Improving VA medical care was a priority for NECmen. From left, E. Roy Stone Jr. of South Carolina and T. Les Galloway of Oregon.

HERE WAS tension in the air as The American Legion's National Executive Committee (NEC) opened its 1992 Spring Meeting at National Headquarters. With veterans benefits under heavy attack from Capitol Hill, Legionnaires came to Indianapolis prepared for battle.

After four days of meetings, the NEC passed 37 resolutions, many on such vital issues as VA health care, national security and employment for veterans.

VA HEALTH CARE

Chester F. Stellar, chairman of the

Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission, delivered a warning: "The administration will soon propose a VA reform package that will devastate the veterans community." But Stellar also offered a solution: The American Legion Proposal on Veterans Health Care.

Developed by Legion VA&R experts and Service Officers, this proposal—essentially the Legion's own reform package for VA—was incorporated into Res. 1, passed by the NEC. Here's what the Legion has proposed:

Available Care. VA medical care should be unconditionally guaranteed for service-connected veterans. Veterans should not be rated for care

based on their level of service-connected disability, as they are now. They should be classified as service-connected or nonservice-connected.

Affordable Treatment. The Legion recommends that nonservice-connected veterans who are not qualified for VA treatment should receive treatment based on their ability to pay. Free VA care should be given to uninsurable veterans and veterans suffering from catastrophic illness or injury whose treatment would render them destitute.

The Legion also wants nonservice-connected veterans to have access to VA via third party payments, including private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or other federal programs. All third party payments should remain either within VA, or ideally, within the VA medical facility that provided treatment.

Legion experts say that no veteran should pay deductibles or copayments when VA is reimbursed by a third party.

Appropriate, Quality Care. VA medical treatment should include preventative care, specialized service for eligible female veterans, and an entire menu of services for older veterans—not just long-term care.

VA must consider providing temporary housing for ambulatory patients seeking treatment and should have facilities for veterans within a reasonable distance.

The resolution states that VA has a duty to provide appropriate care, even if it means contracting for treatment with a community provider.

The Legion's proposal strongly supports educational affiliations between VA and professional medical education institutes that enhance patient care and medical research.

National Health Care. The Legion adamantly opposes any national health-care plan that would eliminate or diminish the role of VA in health care, research or education. VA, if adequately funded, could serve as a model for a national health-care delivery system.

MILITARY DOWNSIZING

Simple math spells trouble for close to 1 million service people unless the Legion takes action, said Economic Commission chairman Joseph J. Frank, who delivered good news and bad news at the meeting.

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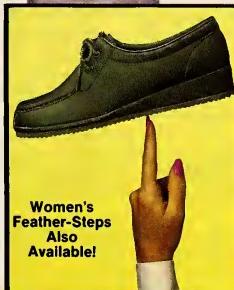


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SPRING MEETING

The bad news: "Congress is cutting a million service people from the active duty rolls and from Department of Defense (DoD) positions at the same time they are slashing veterans employment specialist positions," Frank said. "It is the ultimate irony."

The good news: "The Legion is well-positioned to help these returning veterans," Frank stated. He encouraged Legionnaires to organize an effort to sign these people up as members and to use the Legion network to help them find jobs.

Frank also reported that Congress is in the process of cutting 400 Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veteran Outreach Placement specialists (DVOPs) from the 1,500 currently working with veterans. At the same time, the remaining LVERs and DVOPs may not be allowed to work full time to help veterans find jobs. In past years, state employment offices have used them to process unemployment insurance claims and perform other duties. Legion opposition to this misuse is stated in Res. 13.

Frank also pointed out that the economy and the downsizing of the military will almost certainly increase the number of homeless veterans. Res. 14 passed by the NEC calls for legislative action to help these veterans and the estimated 250,000 veterans who are currently living on the streets.

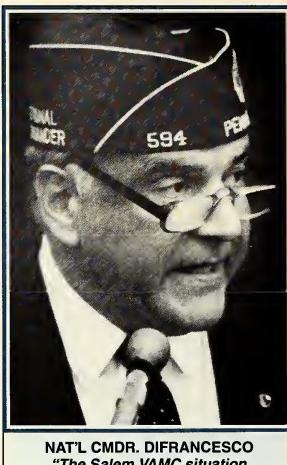
NATIONAL SECURITY

Legionnaires also were concerned that defense cuts may be too deep and too fast.

"This nation has been in five major wars in this century," said William O. Moore, Jr., chairman of the Legion's National Security Commission. "Only in Operation Desert Storm were we fully prepared to fight. This should serve as a reminder that deterrence is meaningless without a strong military force, the will to deploy it and the support of the American people."

With the proposed cuts in active, Reserve and Guard forces, The American Legion believes that the country won't be able to respond to hostile military actions on more than one front.

The Legion is calling on Congress to maintain Guard and Reserve forces at levels that would allow them to successfully respond to multiple military aggressions.



NAT'L CMDR. DIFRANCESCO
*"The Salem VAMC situation
is an atrocity, just horrible."*

MARCHING ORDERS

The Legion's Legislative Division will present 230 issues before Congress in the coming months, a sign that important debates are raging on Capitol Hill.

"There is a mounting ground swell of opposition to many incumbents," said Charles Pesso, chairman of the Legion's Legislative Commission. Pesso's comments were followed with a disturbing announcement by National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is an atrocity," DiFrancesco told the NEC, citing recent events at the VA medical facility in Salem, Va.

"Early this year, two bodies were discovered on the hospital grounds. One had committed suicide. The other had died of exposure."

Silence filled the room as DiFrancesco told another horror story — a third body was found when the hospital cleaned up its grounds after finding the two dead patients.

"It is past time for action on issues such as VA health care, national security and employment for veterans," DiFrancesco said. "Go home and tell your Posts and Departments what's going on. Study the candidates, then vote for the candidate who supports you.

"Vote for the candidate who supports the American veteran."

The following policy resolutions were passed:

Res. 1 (Comm.): Urges Congress to reform VA health care.

Res. 3 (Comm.): Commends the Board of Veterans Appeals and the Court of Veterans Appeals for their service to veterans.

Res. 4 (IA): Opposes privatization or contracting long-term state nursing home care and supports state and VA grants-in-aid for state veterans homes.

Res. 5 (OH): Supports increasing the VA burial allowance to \$2,500 for service-connected deaths.

Res. 7 (MI): Requests VA pay for transportation costs for burial of Medal of Honor recipients at national cemeteries.

Res. 9 (MN): Seeks burial allowance for veterans who die in a non-VA care facility.

Res. 12 (Comm.): Supports federal funding of more training ships for Merchant Marine midshipmen.

Res. 13 (Comm.): Opposes using Disabled Veteran Outreach Placement and Local Veterans Employment Representatives to process unemployment claims.

Res. 14 (Comm.): Supports public and private efforts to aid homeless veterans and seeks legislation that provides medical, rehabilitative and employment assistance.

Res. 12 (Comm.): Opposes the enactment of the Job Training 2000 bill in Congress, if it continues to exclude veterans' representatives in the decision-making process.

Res. 16 (71st Conv.): Proposes a national award for Disabled Veterans Outreach Placement specialists, for Local Veterans Employment Representatives and for local Job Service Offices with outstanding services to veterans.

Res. 19 (NC): Creates three categories for Employer of the Year Award.

Res. 22 (Comm.): Accepts a bequest of \$54,232.32 from the late William Baker for Legion youth programs.

Res. 24 (Comm.): Supports full participation in the Retinitis Pigmentosa national project.

Res. 25 (Comm.): Approves the Stokley-Van Camp company's Gatorade scholarship fund for American Legion Baseball.

Res. 26 (Comm.): Accepts the Uni-Guard company's offer to donate \$4 to the Child Welfare Foundation for every sale of its product.

Res. 27 (Comm.): Urges Posts and Departments to observe National Children's Day, the second Sunday of October.

Res. 28 (Comm.): Opposes elimination of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Res. 32 (Comm.): Supports Legion participation with the Official Veteran's World War II Commemorative Committee.

Res. 34 (Comm.): Urges the establishment of a national Democracy Day.

Res. 35 (Comm.): Approves the annual award of the Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy to the Department that shows the greatest use of the Legion's School Medal Award.

Res. 37 (Comm.): Authorized the creation of a committee to recommend activities to commemorate The American Legion's 75th anniversary.

The complete list of resolutions may be obtained by writing the Archives, American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.



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Oratorical Champ Wins \$18,000 Scholarship

AS AMERICA changes, so changes the U.S. Constitution—through amendments. This right to rewrite the Constitution allows the country to grow, says Kerri L. Ruttenberg, 16, winner of this year's American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.

Her speech, "Amending the Constitution—The Right to Re-Write," earned her first place and an \$18,000 college scholarship at the finals at

Baton Rouge, La., in April. The Columbia, Md., student is a junior at Hammond High School. In her speech, Ruttenberg credited the framers of the Constitution with providing future generations the means to create new laws and change old ones.

"The framers could not have conceived of the problems facing a government of over 245 million citizens. As a result, the Constitution becomes an instrument of government and a positive grant of power. If the document



ORATORICAL WINNERS—From left, second place Jenice C. Mitchell; fourth place Gerald E. Martin; National Vice Commander Ronald C. Murphy; third place Kathryn Friedman; and the winner Kerri L. Ruttenberg.

does not grow with the nation it serves, it is in danger of becoming obsolete," she told the audience.

Finishing second in the National Oratorical Contest was Jenice C. Mitchell, 17, of Detroit, Mich., who received a \$16,000 scholarship for her speech, "The Fourth Amendment: Our Protection Against Unlawful Search and Seizure." Third place and a \$14,000 scholarship went to Kathryn Friedman, 17, of Orinda, Calif., who spoke on "We The People." Gerald E.

Martin, 18, of Bell Buckle, Tenn., earned fourth place and a \$12,000 scholarship for his speech.

The American Legion has sponsored the National Oratorical Contest for 55 years. Students are required to research, write and deliver an eight to 10-minute speech on any part of the U.S. Constitution.

More than 30,000 high school students nationwide entered this year's contest, which offered a total of \$138,000 in scholarships. □



NINETEEN Departments met the Phase I target of Breakthrough '92, the Legion's current membership campaign. They exceeded 96 percent of their 1991 final membership as of May 5.

The 19 Departments are: Delaware, South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, New Mexico, Nebraska, Idaho, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Montana, Vermont, Rhode Island and Maryland.

Each Department received a check for \$1,000 and an invitation to Nat'l

Cmdr. Dominic D. DiFrancesco's "Pizza da Pie" party at this year's National Convention in Chicago. Department invitees to the pizza party include the 1992-93 Department Commander, 1991-92 Department Commander, Department Membership Chairman and Department Adjutant.

In addition, Delaware has already exceeded the Phase II goal and received an additional \$1,000. Most Departments are close to achieving the goal, according to Herman G. Harrington, Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission. The Phase II deadline is July 27. □

Schedule Set For Workshops

SINCE 1979, the National Leadership Workshops have stimulated membership and program growth, cut costs, improved record keeping capabilities and provided leadership training for national, Department and Post volunteers.

This year's schedule is as follows:

Region 1: Stamford, Conn., Sept. 11-13.

Region 2: Charleston, W.Va., Sept. 11-13.

Region 3: Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 2-4.

Region 4: Biloxi, Miss., Oct. 2-4.

Region 5: Champaign, Ill., Sept. 25-27.

Region 6: Rochester, Minn., Sept. 25-27.

Region 7: Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 18, 20.

Region 8: Boise, Idaho, Sept. 18-20. □

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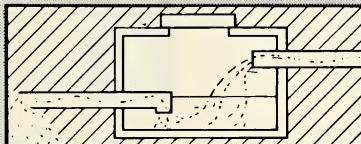
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Earthquake: Legion Helps

CALIFORNIA Legionnaires swung into action immediately after a powerful earthquake struck northern California on April 25, injuring about 100 people and causing millions of dollars worth of damage.

Before the aftershocks ended, Department of California Commander Al Krantz contacted all District and Post commanders in the disaster area, setting in motion the Department's disaster assistance program for Legionnaires and other victims. There are about 13 Posts and 800 Legionnaires in the earthquake area.

"We're not in a panic situation at this point, and we've been able to lend a hand to those who have asked for it," says Krantz. "We're still trying to get a fix on how many Legionnaires were affected."

Measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale, the earthquake's epicenter was near Ferndale and Eureka, and aftershocks were felt in San Francisco, 275 miles south. Although damage was significant, the California earthquake of 1989 prepared many Legionnaires for what was to come.

"Our experience a few years ago, no doubt, helped prepare us to respond when the latest earthquake hit," says Department Adjutant Charles T. Alleman, who helped coordinate disaster relief after the 1989 earthquake. "We learned that you have to move quick but with caution in order to have any real effect."

In addition to the Department of California's efforts, American Legion National Headquarters has been pro-

viding aid to the earthquake victims through its National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Other Departments have offered assistance, but Krantz and Alleman say they don't believe outside help will be needed.

However, Krantz recommends that all Departments set up their own disaster relief

funds to augment the assistance available through the NEF. "You just never know when a disaster can occur. You have to be prepared," he says.

NEF was created by the National Executive Committee in October 1989 after Hurricane Hugo struck South Carolina and North Carolina. Funded by contributions from Legionnaires nationwide, the NEF helps American Legion

VA Underfunded, Legion Tells Congress

THE administration has short-changed the VA health-care budget for fiscal year (FY) 1993, the Legion's John Hanson testified this spring before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Hanson, director of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Division, expects the shortfall to prevent many deserving veterans from obtaining VA medical treatment.

The administration proposed a \$14.6 billion VA health-care budget for FY 1993, a \$1 million increase over FY 1992.

Legion experts contend that \$15.6 billion is necessary, and they say the \$1 million increase will only maintain the current level of VA care and medical services to veterans, not improve it.

The Legion also took issue with the proposed VA budget for benefit programs and construction. VA's total

budget of \$34.3 billion allot only \$17.6 billion for benefit programs and \$604 million for construction.

The Legion claims VA benefits programs, despite a \$20 million budget increase from FY 1992, are so underfunded that 577 staff positions will have to be eliminated. Meanwhile, construction funding was \$20 million lower than FY 1992.

Although VA's total budget proposal is a 6.5 percent increase from FY 1992, the Legion believes that the increase does not keep pace with the needs of veterans.

Hanson also told the congressmen that VA should be allowed to keep Medicare reimbursements for veterans VA treats who are eligible for both VA and other federal health-care programs. He added that VA should also keep money recovered from third-party insurance reimbursements instead of having to turn it over to the U.S. Treasury.

In the first five months of this session of Congress, the Legion has testified 32 times on issues including:

Homeless veterans. Urged expansion of, and full funding for, VA's homeless veterans' programs in FY 1993. (Senate Veterans Affairs Committee).

members, Posts and others who are disaster victims. For example, last year the fund provided Post 557 of Polo, Mo., with the money to rebuild its Post home after it was destroyed by a fire.

For more information or to contribute to the NEF, write: National Emergency Fund, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, or call Internal Affairs at (317) 635-8411. □

Postal rates. Supported a postal subsidy of \$360 million more than the administration's request of \$121 million to defray costs to non-profit organizations. (House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government).

Veterans Job Training Act (VJTA). Urged the re-authorization of this successful training program that trained veterans for careers with lasting employment and promotion potential. (House Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment)

VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. Opposed any additional fees or down payments for veterans who use VA home loans. (House Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs).

National Cemetery System (NCS). Urged more funding for the NCS. (House Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs)

VA and Department of Defense medical cooperation during Desert Storm. Commended VA's performance and provided Legion's recommendations on how to improve. (House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Committee on Veterans Affairs) □

Did You Make This Mistake In Writing Your Will?

Did you know that writing a Will may be one of the biggest mistakes we can make?

It's true!

A Will doesn't protect our loved ones against paying huge fees to lawyers, executors and courts for even the smallest estate. Probate can slice up to 10% or so from an estate and take months or years for final settlement.

In fact, the only thing worse than having just a Will is the nightmare that's created when you have no Will at all.

Because then the State steps in to decide who gets our assets -- our bank account, home, car, valuables, other possessions. Money we've worked so hard to earn is gobbled-up by court and legal fees before our heirs ever get one penny.

What can the average wage earner do to avoid the financial headaches of a Will? Plenty.

Today, under current laws anyone can eliminate costly legal and court fees with a little-known, simple legal paper called a Living Trust. And you don't have to be rich to enjoy its benefits.

A Living Trust has been praised by our nation's leading financial planners, and reported in publications such as The Wall Street Journal, Money Magazine, Business Week and others because:

- It eliminates the costly and lengthy probate process. The estate goes directly to your heirs without going through the courts.
- It eliminates the need for an attorney and legal fees that cut your estate. Does away with all court costs, too.
- It gives you complete control of your estate to make sure that all your wishes are carried out.
- A Living Trust is revocable, which means that you can change your mind at any time about who is going to receive your assets.
- It gives you the right in most cases to name yourself as a trustee, and your spouse or someone else as a co-trustee. Plus the right to change trustees at any time.
- If you own out-of-state real estate, like a vacation house or cabin, you can save a bundle by avoiding the need for probate in a second state.
- Unlike a Will where your finances and everything you own is a matter of

public record for anyone to see, a Living Trust is secret.

The Wall Street Journal reported that it takes two years to complete the average probate in California. The article also stated that since a Living Trust is much faster, cheaper, and more private than settling a Will, there are many advantages to using a Living Trust instead of just a Will.

And Business Week reported that many people are using a Living Trust instead of a Will to reduce the possibility of heirs fighting over your estate.

You must never forget that a Will must be probated and the fees for the probate lawyer and executor -- not including court fees -- range from 6% to 10% and are paid before any of your heirs receive their inheritance. That can take a big chunk out of even the smallest estate when attorneys charge anywhere from \$60.00 to \$150.00 an hour or more!

Look at what happened to the modest estate of Simon Morris:

- The Will of Simon Morris, a Florida resident, left \$77,500 in cash to his widow. Before she could receive it, the probate process grabbed \$9,375.
- Mr. Ken Bradley left \$144,567 directly to his surviving spouse. The probate "fees" of \$8,500 were appealed by the widow. The court ordered a refund of \$7,750 with interest.
- R.L. Roberstone probably thought his Will would get his \$162,114 safely to his heirs. As they found out probate fees amounted to \$6,484.59.

The pity of it all is that these people could have avoided having large bites taken out of their hard-earned property by using a Living Trust. They could have passed every cent to their loved ones without squandering money on probate.

If you think a Living Trust is only for millionaires -- you couldn't be more wrong. Whether you earn \$25,000 or \$100,000 a year -- and whether your assets are huge or small -- a Living Trust will save you money. In fact ... on a percentage basis Living Trusts save more on small estates than large ones!

And you can save even more because we have shown hundreds of thousands of people just like you how to do it. It's simple. The DSA Living Trust Kit was developed

after much research with a team of legal scholars and practicing attorneys. It explains in easy-to-understand language how to set up your own Living Trust.

Instructions and guidelines are written in simple English. Illustrated step-by-step forms show you how to custom-tailor a legal trust to meet your special personal needs.

- Titles to your real estate, automobiles, boats, stocks, etc. are all safe-guarded in your Trust.

Though DSA's exclusive Living Trust Kit will save you a small fortune -- and save your loved ones thousands of dollars later on -- we have kept the price especially low to enable everyone to benefit from it. And now you can save even more. We've cut the price in half and we insist you examine it on a 90-Day No-Risk Trial.

It's easy to get your Living Trust Kit. All you have to do is print "Living Trust" on a sheet of paper. Send it along with your check or money order in the amount of \$9.95 plus \$2 handling instead of \$19.95 or charge to your VISA/MasterCard by including account number and expiration date to: DSA Financial Publishing Corp., Dept. W4113, 708 - 12th Street N.W., Canton, Ohio 44703. For even faster service, VISA/MasterCard or C.O.D., call toll free 1-800-321-0888, Ext. W4113.

Send for your Living Trust Kit within the next 15 days and you'll also get a unique Free Bonus Report on estate planning. The supplies are limited so you must act now.

Want to save even more? Do a favor for a relative or close friend and order a second Kit. That's 2 for only \$20 postpaid. Use your Kit for 90 risk-free days. Show it to your lawyer or advisor. If not 100% delighted--don't keep it. Simply tear off the cover and send half of it back for a full refund. Fair enough?

A Living Trust is too important to put off another day. Especially when you can get the same kit thousands paid \$19.95 for at half price. So order by phone or mail now!

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Special Offer \$19.95 Living Trust Kit Now \$9.95 For Limited Time Only
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HOW TO USE VETS

This month there are 958 military reunions listed on these pages. However, VETS has information on more than 7,000 other reunions. For information on reunions for any military unit or ship, call

(900) 737-VETS
 (900) 737-8387

If you know the VETS five-digit number assigned to the ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed immediately after the unit in the magazine. If you don't know the VETS number or haven't seen the ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS

operators may still be able to provide you with information. Many units are enrolling daily in VETS. Operators are on call Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time; from noon to 8 p.m. Central Daylight Time; from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. Phone calls cost \$1.95 per minute, and the average call takes 2 minutes or less, if you have the VETS number. Proceeds help support various veterans' and children's programs and services sponsored by The American Legion.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS, P.O. Box 10088, Columbia, MO 65205. 4000 unit names may be published two times per unit per year, upon request.

Army

- 1st Engr.Spec.Bde./531st Shore Rgt/
 286th JASCO/3516th Ord. D. 14560
 2nd Arm'd Div. 15551
 2nd Bn., 303rd Inf., 97th Div., Medics
 15339
 2nd Bn., 303rd Inf., 97th Div. (Including
 Medics) 20584
 2nd Bn., 320th Arty., 101st Abn. Div.,
 (Philadelphia) 15400, 14210
 2nd Div., 38th Inf., K Co., 15232
 2nd Inf., 5th Div., Anti-Tank Co., 15451
 2nd Inf., Rgt. Officers Assn. 22327
 2nd Station Hospital WWII 20384
 3rd Inf. Div. - (Western Region) 16410
 3rd US Inf.Rgt.Assn.(The Old Guard)
 20211
 4th Armored Div. Assn. 16402
 4th Bn., 47th Inf., 9th Inf. Div., (Dong
 Tam 1967-68) 14320
 5th AAA (AW)(MLB) 14103
 5th Arm'd Div., Midwest 10289
 5th RCT 14104
 6th F.A. Btry/Germany 1955-56) 20561
 6th FA Vets Assn. 15407
 7th Inf. Div. 15253
 7th Cav. Rgt., Hvy Mortar Co.Korea
 1950-51 22348
 7th F.A. Obsn. Bn. 15605
 7th FA Assn. 10368
 8th Army, HQ & CO - (WWII) 15320
 8th Cav. Recon. Trp. 20597
 9th Rgt. Veterans Assn. NYNG 15362
 9th Signal Co., 9th Div (WWII) 22193
 10th Station Hospital - (WWII) 15953
 11th Engrs. - (WWII) 16436
 11th Evac. Hospital, Semi-Mobile
 15802
- 3rd Inf. Rgt. - (WWII) 16207
 44th Engr. Bn. (Broken Heart) 11171
 44th Evac. Hospital 15254
 45th Inf. Div. 15417
 46th Armed Inf. Bn., Co A, Camp Chat-
 for 20453
 46th Engr. Const. Bn. 10744
 46th Signal Hwy. Const. Bn. 10944
 50TH COMBATENGRS.CD 20600
 50th Gen. Hospital - (WWII) 10468
 51st General Hospital 16320
 59th FA Bn. - (WWII) 15667
 59th Recon, 350th Inf Rgt 22068
 60TH General Hospital 20062
 60th Signal Rad. Int'l./60 Sig. Svc. Co.
 (ASA) 10452
 63rd Engr. (C), 44th Div., A Co. 11235
 63rd Inf. Div. D, D Co. 15333
 63rd Inf. RCT, F Co. - (WWII) 16260
 65th Signal Bn. & 3261 Sig. Serv. Co.
 14450
 70th Tank Bn./Armor Assn. - (Korea)
 16456
 72nd Chem. Mtn. Bn., C Co. 15538
 72nd Hwy. Tnk. (1951 Kapyong) 22434
 74th General Hospital - (WWII) 16445
 78th AAA Gun Bn. 21018
 78th Div. Veterans Assn. 11038
 81st Inf. Div., 81st QM Co. - (WWII)
 10168
 81st Inf. Div. (WWII) 15974
 82nd Airborne Div. Assn.(Appalachian
 Chapter) 15398
 86th Inf. Div. 10109
 88th Eng. (C.P.) Bn. - (WWII) 10471
 89th Inf. Div. Assn. 15465
 89th Cav. Recon. Sq., 9th Arm'd Div.
 15397
 89th Inf. Div. Society (WWII) & Atchd
 Units 20617
 94th Signal Bn. Association 10689
 97th Div. 389th FA Bn. Assn. 15796
 98th Signal Bn. - (WWII) 10303
 99th Inf. (Sep) Bn. 20031
 100th General Hospital - (1943-45)
 15875
 101st Adv. Div. Assn.(In-Country
 Chapter) 1496
 101st Military Police Assn. 18476
 102nd Inf. Div. Assn. 15811
 103rd Inf. Div. (WWII) 12864
 16th Inf. Rgt., 1st Inf. Div., 1950
 European Football Champs 16147
 European Football Champs 16169
 17th Signal Bn. - (WWII) 10395
 18th Inf. Rgt. 8th Inf.Div.1st Battleg-
 group. HQ Co. 20332
 19th Air Depot Supply Sq. 20290
 19th Combat Enrs. 20588
 19th Inf. Rgt., 24th Div. 21071
 21st Avn. Engrs. 10399
 21st Inf., 24th Div., King Co. (1950-52)
 20676
 22nd Ord. Serv. Bn 10836
 23rd Inf. Rgt. (Torch) B Co (Boston/
 Iceland) 16332
 26th AAA Bn. A Btry 11114
 26th Cav. Recon. Troop, 26th Div 21983
 27th Inf. D.M. Inf. Bn., A Co. 20590
 27th Inf., 25th Div., C Co. (WWII) 15321
 27th Inf. Rgt., 25th Div., C Co. (WWII)
 20233
 27th Ordnance Co. 22153
 28th Div., 112th Inf. Reg 22820
 28th Inf. Rgt., 8th Inf. Div., G Co. -
 (WWII) 16528
 29th Div. Assn. 16230
 30th Evac. Hospital (WWII) 10714
 31st Inf. Rgt. 15855
 32nd Vets Assn. 22197
 33rd Inf. Div., Chem. Section 20441
 34th Inf. Rgt., 24th Div., L Co. 15480
 35th Inf. Rgt. 25th Div. C Co. 20283
 351st 110th QM Assn. & 735th Ord.
 10085
 36th Cav. Recon. Sq. 16552
 38th Engr. Rgt. (C) 16367
 38th Field Hospital Assn. 15669
 38th QM Co., 13th OM Rgt. 16530
 38th Signal Const. Bn. 10198
 39th FA Bn, 3rd Inf. Div. 22002
 39th Signal Hwy. Const. Bn. - (WWII)
 15220
 40th Inf. Div. - (Korea) 16427
 40TH INF. DIV. 2026
 40th Recon., 40th Inf. Div. - (Korea)
 16481

- 43rd Engrs. Rgt. - (WWII) 16207
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 40TH INF. DIV. 2026
 40th Recon., 40th Inf. Div. - (Korea)
 16481
- 155th Inf., 31st Div., Co. H 14175
 156th F.A. Bn., 44th Inf. Div. 15524
 157th Inf. Rgt./15th FA Bn., 45th Div.
 (WWII) 15238
 158th RCT, 147th FA, 760th Clearing
 Co. - Busters 15623
 160th Inf. Rgt., 41st Div., G Co. 15642
 162nd Inf., 41st Div., C Co. (WWII)
 22745
 163rd AAA Bn., Btry B 15523
 163rd Engr. Combat Bn. 15330
 163rd Ord., 3rd Engr. Spec. Bde. 16063
 165th Eng. Combat Bn. 20120
 165th Inf. (formerly The Fighting 69th)
 20754
 17th FA Bn. (formerly 2nd Bn., 111th
 FA Rgt.) 15593
 179th Inf. Div. Asstn. 15684
 180th Chemical Engineers 20330
 188th FA Bn., 47th Div., C Btry. 16716
 188th Med. Bn., HQ, Det./615th Med
 Cdr./421st Med Coll. C Cos. 10493
 188th Ord., HQ & Med. Bn., H.M. Tank
 14292
 191st Tank Bn. Assn. 15337
 193rd FA Bn. (108th FA Bn.) 11082
 196th RCT 16346
 200th ENGR. CO., 196th RCT 20683
 202nd AAA AW Bn. 11073
 203rd FA Bn. 10880
 203rd QM Bn., B Co./3834th QM Gas
 Sq. 15525
 204th F.A. Bn., 2nd Bn., 222nd F.A. -
 (WWII) 15763
 214th AAA Gun Bn. - (WWII) 11107
 216th General Hospital - (WWII) 11062
 216th Ord. H. M. Co. (FA) 16149
 219th AAA Gun Bn., B Btry. 15689
 233rd FA, Service Btry (1949-53) 20444
 233rd S/L Bn., C Btry. 15787
 235th Combat Engineers(WWII) 16261
 240th Engr. Bn. 15286
 243rd Port Co. 10580
 246th C.A. Assn. 10985
 246th FA MSLB(CPL), Ft Bliss(1953-
 55) 15480
 247th Combat Engr. Bn. 10177
 249th Engr. (C) Bn. 11242
 250th Engr. (C) Bn., A Co. 11148
 252nd Engr. (C) Bn. 10639
 254th FA Bn. 16061
 256th Engr. Combat Bn. - (WWII) 16048
 257th Ord. MM. Co. 15970
 272nd FA. Bn. - (Korea) 15827
 273rd FA Bn. - (WWII) 10868
 276th Engr. Combat Bn. (WWII) 10169
 276th Inf. Rgt., 27th Div. F. Co. 16708
 277th Port Co. 16639
 281st Engr. Combat Bn. Assn WWII
 15218
 282nd Combat Engrs., B Co. 15906
 283rd Engr. Combat Bn. 16726
 297th Signal Co. 2022194
 297th Signal Co. CO. 20776
 301st Signal Oper. Bn. - (WWII) 10644
 303rd FA Bn., 9th Div. (WWII Included)
 16191
 303rd Inf., 97th Div. C. Co. 11160
 303rd Inf. Rgt., F. Co. 15757
 304th Station Hospital 10175
 313th Inf. Rgt., 79th Div. (WWII) 15637
 314th Inf., 79 Div Co G, Weapons Pla-
 tatoon 15592
 315th Rgt., 79th Inf. Div. (WWII) 15599
 322nd Inf. Rgt., 81st Inf. Div., C Co. -
 (WWII) 10925
 323rd Inf., 81st Div., B Co. 10745
 324th Inf. Rgt., 44th Div. (WWII) 11108
 324th Inf. Rgt., 337th Inf. Rgt., 310th
 Eng. A Co. 21873
 336th Engr. Combat Bn. - (ETO) 15721
 338th Inf., 85th Div., Co. E 10712
 343rd General Hospital 20165
 355th Engr. Rgt. 20749
 359th AAA S/L Bn. 16287
 359th FA Bn., 98th Div., A Btry. - (WWII)
 10929
 377th Pfc. F.A. Bn., 101st Abn. Div.,
 Batry C 20216
 382nd AAA AW Bn. 10374
 389th FA Bn., 97th Div., C Btry. 10719
 390th Signal Avn Co. (SP) - (WWII)
 15453
 397th Inf. Div., 387th Rgt., M Co. 15865

★ ★ VETS ★ ★

409th A.A. Bn. 15475
 401st AAA Gun Brn. 15366
 409th Inf., 103rd Div., D Co. 10269
 410th Inf., 103rd Div., C Co. - (WWII) 15843
 410th Inf., 103rd Rgt., D Co. 16273
 423rd M.P.E.G. Co.(Det.) 15180
 426th Med. Bn. 564/565/566th Amb. Cos. 15688
 435th AAA AW Bn./473rd Inf. Rgt. Assn. 16686
 440th AAA (AW) Bn. 17610
 445th Ord. (HAM) Co. 15242
 453rd AAA AW Bn. 14196
 460th Eng. Co. 15223
 461st AAA AW Bn., 79th Div. 15287
 471st AAA AW Bn. 10071
 474th Signal Avn. Construction Co. (SCARAW) 15876
 475th AAA AW Bn. 16182
 482nd AAA AW Bn. (SP) 10670
 488th Port Bn., 188/190/191/191 Port Cos. 10811
 489th AAA AW Bn. (SP) 15748
 491st AAA AW Bn. 16248
 491st Engr. Base Equip. Co. 15777
 494th AAA Gun Brn. 15617
 501st AAA Brn., B Btry. - (WWII) 16386
 502nd AAA Brn. 16127
 503rd M.P. Battalion 20499
 505th AAA Gun Brn. 20856
 506th AAA Gun Brn. 16299
 510th Engr. Lt. Pontoon Co. 11074
 524th MP Brn., C Co. 10727
 526th QM Railhead Co. 10201
 529th QM CO. 20746
 530th FA Bn., 252nd C.A. 20198
 536th Ord. H.M.C. Tko. 15682
 549th AAA Brn., A/B/C/D/HQ Btrks. - (WWII) 16390
 556th Ord. HM (TK) Co. - (WWII) 15793
 560th AAA Brn. 16278
 563rd HM (TK) Ordn. Assn. (WWII) 20135
 565th AAA AW Bn. (WWII) 10183
 567th AAA AW Bn. 11000
 574th/565th SAW Bns. 16115
 579th Signal Avn. Warr. Bn. New Caledonia 1942-44/1424
 586th AAA Brn., B Btry. WWII 21787
 592nd Signal Alr-Ground Liaison Co. 20147
 593RD ADP. D CO. 20151
 593rd EB&SR. D CO. 15988
 593rd JASCO Assn. (Joint Assault Signal Co.) 16073
 602nd FA Bn. (PK) (WWII) 15591
 603rd Medium Tank Co. 21987
 605th Tank Destroyer Assn. 10118
 607th OBAM Brn. (WWII) 22723
 609th Tank Destroyer Registration 14232
 609th TD Brn. 10287
 611th Eng. L.T. Equip. Co. 15814
 617th QM Dpt. Co. 16272
 619th QM Brn. HQ-619th Med. Detach. 15520
 628th T.D. Bn. 15209
 644th Tank Destroyer Brn. 16698
 661st TD Bn. 11166
 687th FA. Bn. 16298
 692nd F.A. Bn., B Btry. & HQ 15303
 692nd TD BN. 15601
 693rd Port Co. 16403
 701st TD Bn. 10801
 702nd Tank Bn. Red Devils 15336
 707th Tank Brn. (WWII) 16702
 715th ROB 11091
 716th Inf. Regt. (Infantry) 14163
 717th Operating Railroad Batt. Co A, WWII 1943-45/2018
 717th Tank Co. 21747
 722nd Eng. Dpt. Co. 15692
 722nd Rgt. Dpt. Co. 15692
 726th Amph. Tractor Bn. - (WWII) 15673
 740th AAA Bn. A Btry WWII 20832
 748th R.O.B. 15494
 746th Railway Oper. Brn. 16258
 747TH TANK BN. 20852
 753rd Tank Brn. 10457
 755th Rwy. Shop Bn. 15889
 757th Tank Brn. 16264
 759th MP Brn. 10728
 759th Railway Operating Bn. 10784
 760th F.A. Bn. Assn. 2001
 771st FA Bn., B Btry. 15535
 772nd TD Brn. 10263
 773rd Tank Destroyer Assn. 15680

776th Tank Destroyer Bn. 15471
 777th Ord. Assn. 77th Inf Div 22613
 780th FA Bn. (Korea) 10349
 782nd Tank Brn. - (WWII) 15121
 783rd MP Brn. - (WWII) 15191
 789th AAA AW Bn. 10019
 793rd MP Brn. - (1943-5) 16118
 795th AAA AW Bn. 10426
 796th AAA AW Bn. 15747
 802nd Engr. Assn. 15223
 804th TD Bn. (WWII) 10701
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REMEMBRANCE

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The commemoration began March 26, the 10th anniversary of the ground-breaking. In May, a Memorial Day observance took place and in June, on Father's Day, the children of those named on The Wall laid a single red rose before the panel bearing their father's name.

Many people leave things at The Wall. "It is almost mystical," says Duery Felton, Curator of the Military Archives for the National Park Service.

"We collect letters, medals, mementoes of all description," Felton says. "It represents an on-going tribute and an outpouring of grief and pride that is unlike any other monument anywhere in the world. The Wall is definitely unique."

Felton's staff, in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and an organization called Beyond the Wall, will be selecting Wall items to be exhibited at the Smithsonian beginning in October.

Beyond the Wall is the fund-raiser for the exhibit.

The National Park Service collects the items left and sends them to the archives for storage and classification.

Since its construction, some 20 million people have visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Once the center of intense controversy, The Wall now ranks among the most visited sites in the country.

Without The American Legion, however, the memorial might still be uncompleted. Legionnaires donated \$1.3 million to the building fund, making the Legion the largest single donor. And it was the Legion that stepped in and was instrumental in saving the memorial when lawmakers who opposed the design tried to block its construction.

The wisdom and effectiveness of the design can no longer be argued as more people visit The Wall than visit the Lincoln Memorial.

That's why a huge turnout is expected in November, the actual anniversary date of the memorial. On Nov. 6, the American Film Institute will present a series of films on Vietnam at the Kennedy Center.

The next day, on Nov. 7, the VVMF will sponsor meals for homeless veter-

ans and an indoor and outdoor concert featuring performers and musical groups from the '60s.

Then, on Sunday, Nov. 8, the reading of the names will begin. There are 58,183 names on The Wall, men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in America's longest war. Their names will be read day and night, as honor guards stand sentinel. Spectators will be given glow sticks as evening falls. The reading will continue until all the names have been read, concluding sometime Wednesday morning.

PRESIDENT George Bush has been invited to be the keynote speaker at The Wall on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

American Airlines is offering discount airline fares to Washington, D.C., to attend the anniversary events of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Call (800) 433-1790 and ask for STAR File No. S02N2GV.

Train travelers can also receive discount fares (except for Metroliner, auto train or sleeper accommodations) by calling Amtrak Personalized Travel at (800) 237-6971 and asking for Michael Greenwald.

Hotel reservations are available by calling D.C. Accommodations at (800) 554-2220. Be sure to mention you are coming to Washington for the Vietnam Memorial events.

For additional information and a full schedule of events, contact Jamie Smith or Jim Burns at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., 815 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005, or phone (202) 393-0090. □

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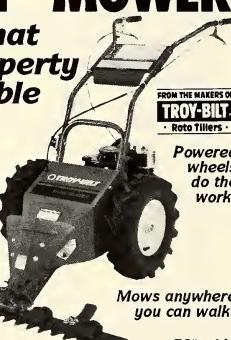
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Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to CID, The American Legion Magazine, Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search for Witness Forms available from Department Legion Service Officers.

13th Constabulary Sq. Simon (Samuel) Hrab needs witnesses to verify that he served with the 13 Constabulary Sq. in Wiesbaden, West Germany, in early 1946. Contact CID 1156.

95th Aircraft Warning Bn, HQ Bn, Malcolm H. Nordley needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Finchaven, New Guinea in 1944, he received a sinus wash treatment causing paralysis. Contact CID 1152. Co. A, 378th Inf., 95th Div. Solly Stark needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Fort McClellan, Ala., in the spring of 1946, he suffered facial cuts when a barracks window broke during a storm. Contact CID 1153.

Co. E, 2nd Bn, 3rd Armored Cav. Regt. Calvin Ingram needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Camp Pickett, Va., in October 1952, he received injuries to his right hand while playing baseball. Contact CID 1151.

6123rd AC&W Sq. Earl F. Bartley needs witnesses to verify that while he was stationed in Korea, he suffered head trauma in January 1958 when he was attacked by several people. Contact CID 1154.

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Thailand and others that are lax in enforcing property rights. The theft: fakes of brand-named computers and unlawfully copied computer software; and drugs, some of which make their way back into the United States and are dangerous because they don't perform like the real patented ones.

From a legal perspective, more than half of all patents granted in the United States today go to foreign corporations. One reason is that America is one of the best nations in which to file, thanks to courts that strongly back the "first-to-invent" patent holders and levy large judgments against those who infringe upon them.

The nationality of the inventor is meaningless. If that red-blooded American Cliff Clavin invents a radical new postal box destined to earn him the big bucks, he's back on his stool on the TV program, "Cheers," if a Mitsubishi mail clerk invented it first. And guess which country is extremely active with U.S. patent applications. As New York attorney Steven Glazer told *Business Week*: "The Japanese are building up their patent stockpile."

Nevertheless, the United States also is engaged in its share of internecine patent warfare. For example, in 1990 Eastman Kodak was ordered to pay Polaroid \$900 million for infringing on several of its patents for instant photography. In the summer of 1991, a U.S. federal court ordered Johnson & Johnson (J&J), to pay \$116 million in damages and interest to Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing (3M), after finding that J&J violated four of 3M's patents.

Such suits are a part of big business. But when legal eagles pluck at each other's eyes over intellectual property, it generates a smokescreen that obscures a far more significant problem. Besides generating large legal fees, it diverts management's attention to legal matters instead of focusing on the business of production. When a case goes against a company taking a risk that something may or may not be patented, millions of dollars invested in developing products that could help society go down the drain.

While they should be concentrating on creating new wealth, U.S. corporations are losing still more of their edge against increasingly tough foreign com-

THE PATENT PROCESS

ONE of the greatest fears of inventors and other creative types is that some scoundrel will steal their work and make a fortune.

The U.S. government offers three types of protection: copyrights for manuscripts; trademarks for product names; and patents for inventions.

While the basic filing fee is \$370, the final cost of obtaining a patent can be anywhere from about \$2,000 to tens of thousands of dollars for legal help, forms and drawings. Thus, before you file, it's wise to search patent records to see if what you've developed is a new invention. Searches can be conducted at the U.S. Patent Office in Arlington, Va., or at one of the 51 Patent Depository libraries located in 32 states.

Most inventors seek help for this chore by hiring an attorney or agent who specializes in patents. Although fees range from \$200 to more than \$1,000, such assistance can help you avoid infringing on another patent, or even provide clues on how to design around an existing patent.

Because similar ideas are often developed at the same time, experts recommend that you keep a notebook—with numbered pages bound with glue or stitched pages—in which to record progress on the invention. Each page should be signed by yourself and at least one

witness. You should also keep copies of all correspondence about the project, and records of anyone you've spoken with about it.

Applications must include a written document that describes and explains the invention, including claims made for it; an oath or declaration that the inventor feels that he or she is the original and first inventor of the item described; a drawing of the invention in cases where such drawings are necessary; and the filing fee.

If two or more people are the inventors, they can apply for a patent as joint inventors. A person who funds research on an invention is not considered the inventor. Only the person who does the creating can hold the patent.

For forms and information on patent applications, write to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

A booklet on the patent process is available by writing the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Also available are "General Information Concerning Patents," in non-technical language for the layman, which costs \$2, and "Basic Facts About Trademarks" at \$1.75. —J.S. □

petition, in part due to some serious fractures in the patent system.

Ironically, it's a system that heretofore has been the bedrock of the nation's economic prosperity.

If necessity is the mother of invention, the U.S. Patent system has for more than 200 years been innovation's guardian father. Said Thomas Jefferson, who as Secretary of State administered the Patent Office at its founding in 1790: "The issue of patents for new discoveries has given a spring to invention beyond my comprehension."

The idea of patents grew out of the medieval European institution of allowing monopolistic control over useful goods to stimulate their sale and distribution. Usually granted by monarchs, the monopolies were frequently corrupt and often exploited the public.

When the delegates met in Philadelphia in 1787 to frame the Constitution, they debated a means to protect inventors and authors. Although fearing

European style monopolies, they concluded that granting a limited monopoly could benefit society—even more than the individual—by stimulating innovation. Thus, they created a board empowered to issue a patent for a period of 14 years, which gave an inventor the right to exclude all others from making or using his or her invention. The period has since been extended to 17 years for new and useful inventions, and 14 years for such things as designs of product boxes.

With the vision so typical of the Constitution's authors, the founding fathers, in creating the U.S. patent system, devised yet another incredibly democratic and effective system. It's one that plays no favorites, offering the same opportunity and protection to rocket scientists, IBM researchers and garage-based inventors alike. Benefiting legendary little guys such as Robert Kearns, it also backed the obscure and virtually unknown Gilbert Hyatt, who

Please turn page

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in 1990 after a 20-year struggle, sent shock waves through the semiconductor industry when he finally won the patent for the basic semiconductor. A licensing deal with a giant electronics firm has since set him up for life.

The patent system rewards what Thomas Edison called "inspiration and perspiration," an apt description by the man who in 1878 received Patent No. 200,521 for a "Phonograph or Speaking Machine," and who still holds the individual record of nearly 1,100 more. It's a system that in 1906 granted Orville and Wilbur Wright a chance to profit from "New and Useful Improvements in Flying-Machines."

It is also the same system that a few years ago awarded Harvard University a patent for a genetically altered mouse, created for use in cancer research. The mouse's acceptance confirmed that—as a Supreme Court decision on the creation of an oil-eating bacteria concluded—"a patent can be granted on anything under the sun that can be

made by man," including new forms of life.

Nevertheless, there are signs that the system is starting to squeak like that genetically altered mouse. One problem is the sheer volume of inventions, the hundreds of thousands of annual filings. In 1991, the PTO issued its 5 millionth patent. The PTO has an examining staff of nearly 1,500, trained in all branches of science. Examiners must determine whether an application truly represents something new, a process that means pouring through U.S. and foreign patent records, scientific books and publications to see if the item or process has already been invented, or even described.

For much of its existence, the PTO kept its records in shoebox-sized files. But the quaint and musty method is giving way to modernization. Despite some difficulties, the government is making progress toward computerizing the system. Despite some start-up problems, says PTO attorney Lee Schroeder, "We have a system that's better than anyone else." In a *Business Week* interview, Schroeder claimed "There's not much difference in the exam done in the United States, Japan or Europe. But we are quicker."

Though Japan currently takes about 36 months to grant patent approval, it

hopes that a \$1 billion computer system will cut a year off that time by the middle of the decade. But there are differences in other countries' patent laws. Japan and Europe use the "first-to-file" system and make the applications public 18 months later. The first-to-file criteria cuts down on a lot of duplicate effort between competing inventors.

Japanese patents most often revolve around minute and incremental improvements in products, processes and applications, and they're churned out by the hundreds. Designed to stimulate new technology and manufacturing might, the ideas are rushed into development, at the same time U.S. innovations are being tied up in the American system. Once commercial, the innovations patented in Japan may well keep American firms with similar products from making inroads into Japanese markets.

The beauty of the U.S. system is that it protects the independent inventor who cannot afford to file numerous applications—just to show that he is first. A U.S. inventor can also dawdle on developing the product, fully aware that the court system will back him as the first-to-invent claimant. The upshot in the United States, says Schroeder, is



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that "we don't have any trouble inventing, but [the problem is] with pushing the technology forward."

The first-to-file system and its more open disclosure policies, however, apparently brings products to market much faster. It reduces some of the confusion and conflict that surrounds competing claims. And any time massive legal tussles can be averted—sorry, *L.A. Law*—money can go to more productive pursuits that create long-term wealth.

THERE may always be some confusion and competing claims in complex sciences such as biotechnology. Companies frequently have researchers toying with almost identical molecules, and might come up with almost identical inventions at the same time. And some piracy of intellectual property may always be with us, from fake Cartier watches to bootleg videos and cheap copies of personal computer software. But governments and companies from industrial nations are beginning to pressure those countries that are negligent about enforcing patents, trademarks and copyrights.

Brazil, for example, drew the wrath of White House trade sanctions in 1988 for allowing Brazilian drug companies

to copy patented U.S. drugs at a fraction of the cost. They were able to charge lower prices because they didn't have to take any investment risks and had no costs in research and development. And Monsanto refuses to introduce its best-seller weed killer in India, which offers no patent protection. Says a company spokesman, "The loser in all of this is the Indian farmer."

The message is getting out. The World Intellectual Property Organization is working with trade negotiators to develop more consistency in trademark laws around the world. Several nations, including Brazil, Turkey, Egypt and China have agreed to improve or create stronger new patent laws. To win favor in the United States for a free-trade pact, Mexico said it planned to offer patent protection to food and pharmaceuticals, which it hadn't previously done.

The U.S. system is also considering changes, moving from the first-to-invent to the first-to-file standard and reducing the amount of secrecy surrounding applications. The result may put U.S. companies on a better footing for international competition, and kindle a more aggressive attitude toward product development.

In the future, the lone inventor may

face a few more disadvantages. But society is much more complex than it was in 1842, when an Illinois Congressman named Abe Lincoln received patent No. 6,469 for "A Device for Buoying Vessels over Shoals." Having twice been on grounded vessels, Lincoln devised a set of bellows that could be attached to the hull of a ship, just below the water line. The idea was that in shallow water, the air-filled bellows could enable the ship to float clear.

Patents, of course, don't guarantee that inventions are a success. Lincoln's certainly wasn't. But patent laws are nonetheless essential to a nation's prosperity.

A famous advocate of patent laws was author Mark Twain, who did well with one of his three patented devices, a self-pasting scrapbook. Not much came of the others, and he later lost a fortune investing in various gizmos. But Twain still believed in the system. As the character "Sir Boss" said in Twain's *Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur's Court*, "A country without a patent office and good patent laws is just a crab and can't travel anyway but sideways and backwards."

Despite its problems, the two-century old U.S. patent system keeps crawling straight ahead. □

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Small Company's New Golf Ball Flies Too Far; Could Obsolete Many Golf Courses

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Want To Shoot An Eagle Or Two?

By Mike Henson

MERIDEN, CT — A small golf company in Connecticut has created a new, super ball that flies like a U-2, puts with the steady roll of a cue ball and bites the green on approach shots like a dropped cat. But don't look for it on weekend TV. Long-hitting pros could make a joke out of some of golf's finest courses with it. One pro who tested the ball drove it 400 yards, reaching the green on all but the longest par-four. Scientific tests by an independent lab using a hitting machine prove the ball out-distances major brands dramatically.

The ball's extraordinary distance comes partly from a revolutionary new dimple design that keeps the ball aloft longer. But there's also a secret change in the core that makes it rise faster off the clubhead. Another change reduces air drag. The result is a ball that gains altitude quickly, then sails like a glider. None of the changes is noticeable in the ball itself.

Despite this extraordinary performance the company has a problem. A spokesman put it this way: "In golf you need endorsements and TV publicity. This is what gets you in the pro shops and stores where 95% of all golf products are sold. Unless the pros use your ball on TV, you're virtually locked out of these outlets.

TV advertising is too expensive to buy on your own, at least for us.

"Now, you've seen how far this ball can fly. Can you imagine a pro using it on TV and eagle-ing par-fours? It would turn the course into a par-three, and real men don't play par-threes. This new fly-power forces us to sell it without relying on pros or pro-shops. One way is to sell it direct from our plant. That way we can keep the name printed on the ball a secret that only a buyer would know. There's more to golf than tournaments, you know."

The company guarantees a golfer a prompt refund if the new ball doesn't cut five to ten strokes off his or her average score. Simply return the balls — new or used — to the address below. "No one else would dare do that," boasted the company's director.

If you would like an eagle or two, here's your best chance yet. Write your name and address and "Code Name S" (the ball's R&D name) on a piece of paper and send it along with a check (or your credit card number and expiration date) to National Golf Center (Dept S-241), 500 S. Broad St., Meriden, CT 06450. Or phone 203-238-2712, 8-8 Eastern time. No P.O. boxes, all shipments are UPS. One dozen "S" balls cost \$24.95 (plus \$3.00 shipping & handling), two to five dozen are only \$22.00 each, six dozen are only \$109.00. You save \$55.70 ordering six. Shipping is free on two or more dozen. Specify white or Hi-Vision yellow.

decide which hospital should provide particular services, which hospital should own a particular piece of equipment, and how much each hospital and doctor could charge for each medical procedure.

The amount of care that Americans receive would be politically determined, and these decisions would be bureaucratically implemented. It is naive to assume that government can make these decisions correctly, scientifically, and without political bias.

Americans would have to take health care as permitted by the government, not on the basis of what they want. The result would be shortages, waiting lines and reduced quality of care.

Concerns over a government-controlled system, however, are balanced by doubt that there is any other way to constrain costs and assure access to all who need health care.

There is, however, an alternative: a private market of competing insurance

companies and care providers, with the government giving aid that would enable people to buy private insurance.

Health care can be made more efficient by subjecting it to the same market forces and the same discipline of competition that control costs in the rest of the economy. This would permit consumers to make their own choices, based upon both price and quality.

AMERICANS making these choices would promote competition among health-care insurance plans, which in turn would force hospitals and doctors to compete. The hospitals and doctors who delivered the best care and who were responsive to their patients would be the most successful. Those who did not would be weeded out and fail.

How can people who cannot afford insurance exercise these choices? Government can assist people to obtain coverage without ruining the health-care system. It could give those who need help a voucher or a tax credit to permit them to obtain their own private insurance.

In this way, everyone could participate in the same private health-care system, and the system could be con-

trolled by the consumers.

The government already provides assistance to some people to purchase private insurance, and it loses \$60 billion a year in taxes because payment by companies for their employees' health insurance is not treated as taxable income, as other compensation is.

This subsidy is unfair and untargeted. The government gives assistance to those who need it least—those whose employers pay for their own insurance. People who pay for their own insurance receive little or no assistance. The arrangement encourages and subsidizes the purchase of more insurance than is necessary, which inflates the costs of health care to everyone.

Government assistance should be targeted to those who need it. In this way everyone, including those who currently are uninsured, would have the ability to participate in a private system and could choose the private health plan that best met their needs.

Regulation should be focused on making a competitive market work. Government should review insurance plans and keep inadequate or deceptive health insurance plans off the market.

Consumers should be guaranteed continued coverage when insurance plans fail. Doctors and hospitals should be tightly, but wisely, regulated to ensure quality. Insurance companies should be required to cover everyone regardless of health status, or greater government assistance should be made available to higher-risk people to offset higher premiums.

Government assistance should be given to those who could not otherwise afford private health insurance. The health reform debate should focus on making the private system work better, not on turning the system over to the government. □

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NEWS**



"And now here's Jimmy with a correction on last night's wolf story."

MARMOR

Continued from page 27

Germany relies on more than 1,200 sickness funds. The Canadian experience, in particular, shows that decentralization permits considerable variation.

Canadian provinces must provide a Medicare type of health insurance that is universal, comprehensive in benefits, publicly administered and portable across the country. Beyond these core requirements, there is great variation in financing, the type of additional benefits offered, and whether there are insurance intermediaries between provincial governments and medical providers.

In a 10-nation survey, Canadians were the happiest with their health-care system—56 percent reported overall satisfaction compared with 10 percent in the United States. Before the introduction of national health insurance in Canada, they spent as much per capita as the United States on medical care. Now they spend about 30 percent less.

The West German system shows that it is possible to mandate universal health insurance through a variety of individual plans. Practically every German citizen is insured. Most are insured by sickness funds that employers and unions jointly run. The unemployed have their own funds; so do retirees and the disabled.

Canadian and German doctors, like their American counterparts, are among their society's most highly paid professionals. In both countries, physicians enjoy greater autonomy in their work than in the heavily administered U.S. system.

American doctors spend much more time than their foreign counterparts on payment-related paperwork, and their treatment decisions are subject to far more intrusive routine monitoring by insurers.

Canada, Australia and West Germany—all federal systems—cope with tensions among cost, access and quality better than does the United States. All pay their physicians on a fee-for-service basis, while managing to control total expenditures. None limits patients' choice of providers as much as the "managed care" systems advocated by some reformers in the United States.

Some claim that American politics is too corrupt or incompetent to manage a national health-insurance program without gross wastefulness. That's only an excuse to avoid the problem.

Exaggerated claims are also made that America's undeniably more numerous poor—and more violent cities—would overwhelm any national health-insurance system.

Additional spending would indeed be required to cover America's uninsured, but the General Accounting Office estimates the additional cost at \$12 billion—an amount dwarfed by the administrative savings alone of a Canadian-style plan. And the costs of the greater violence of U.S. cities are already incorporated in the budgets of urban emergency rooms.

True, but irrelevant to the virtues of national health insurance is Canada's free-riding on American biomedical research. Research costs can and should be shared among industrial nations; a more disciplined American health budget and shrunken medical profits would surely prompt such pooling.

The most widespread and silly excuse for ignoring the Canadian

experience is the claim that Canadian medical care is undesirably poor in access, quality and managerial acumen.

Critics of the Canadian system make much of well-publicized bottlenecks in the delivery of some specialized services. But Canadians generally find it easier than Americans to obtain most forms of medical care. They also have more general hospital beds per capita, stay longer in hospitals when sick, and use more physician services per person.

If judged by infant mortality and longevity, Canadian medical care is better than American care.

American medicine needs reform. Code words like "the market," "national health insurance" and "managed care" provide no answers. We need less talk about American uniqueness and more willingness to listen to what others can tell us. □



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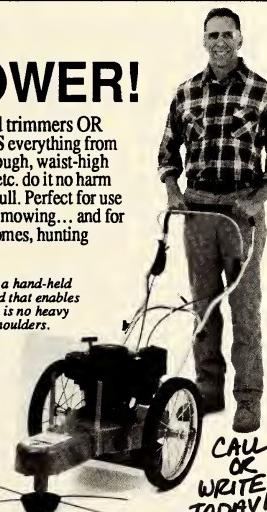
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ALLEGIANCE

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Creator for help and guidance.

Often-quoted Psalms and Proverbs refer to God's love and care for those who call upon His name and who believe in Him. They also have dozens of references to God's hatred of (man's) pride (in himself), and how people who believe they can do anything without God's help and approval are in for big surprises.

"...indivisible..."

While nations rise up against each other and factions of nations rise up against their own countries, the United States of America has remained intact. Furthermore, it has grown from the original 13 states to 50 and, from time to time, there is talk of certain areas and territories taking votes to request statehood, too.

The Civil War—the War Between the States—divided this great country for a while. But, like the broken bone that knits together well, it served to make the country stronger. The war was fought, the issue resolved, the

Continued from page 19
October 1989, 64 percent wanted such an amendment.

The Legion's November poll of 1,000 Americans also showed that an overwhelming majority wanted a chance to vote on a constitutional amendment to protect the flag—a chance Congress has not yet given American voters.

In the poll, 77 percent said such an amendment would not jeopardize their right of free speech. And 77 percent said burning a flag is not an expression

of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Also, 81 percent of those surveyed said they would vote for a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from the physical act of being burned.

"The poll results are clear. Support for a constitutional amendment is growing," says DiFrancesco. "Americans want their flag protected. Our voices will not be silenced until there is a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag." □

cleaning up accomplished and, as the years passed, the animosity faded.

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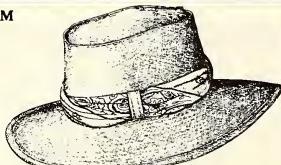
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Fred C. Bramlage, KS Department Commander (1949-50), National Vice Commander (1950-51).

William R. Kendall, HI Department Vice Commander (1983-84/1985-86), Department Commander (1986-87).

Ralph E. Phillips, Panama Canal Department Vice Commander (1988-90), Department Commander (1991-92).

William H. Sener, Philippines Department Adjutant (1985-86), Department Commander (1986-92).

POPULATION

Continued from page 21

Nations fall into two vastly different camps, based on fertility rates.

Undeveloped countries—mostly in Latin America, Africa and Asia—account for 90 percent of the global population growth. Excluding China, their fertility rate is 4.8, and up to a third of their people are below 15 years of age—two factors that threaten an even bigger baby boom to come.

Meanwhile, most industrialized nations have reduced their TFR to replacement level or below. Fertility in France, Britain, Denmark, Italy, Germany and other nations is well below 2.1, which means that these nations eventually will stop growing.

The U.S. TFR, which had been below replacement level for nearly two decades at 1.7 or 1.8, recently shot up to 2.1, making the United States the fastest growing developed nation on Earth. "If current fertility and immigration [about 900,000 per year] remain unchanged, the U.S. population will continue to grow forever," says Carl Haub, a demographer with the Population Reference Bureau.

The industrialized world's overall low fertility rate has led some observers to label the population bomb a dud. In *The Birth Dearth*, for example, writer and scholar Ben Wattenberg calls for developed countries—or at least middle- and upper-income people in those countries—to have more, not fewer babies.

He believes that western nations and Japan will lose power and prestige as they come to contain an ever-shrinking percentage of humanity. Failure to keep the U.S. population growing, he says, "will hurt us in every conceivable way: militarily, economically, politically and culturally."

Many population experts, however, disagree sharply. "Fallacies like this receive public support because people want to believe everything is okay," says ZPG communications director Sherman. "But everything is not okay, and it's dangerous to believe a larger population will make America—or any other country—stronger."

The industrialized world's fertility rate does indeed point to a stabilized—and shrinking—population. But measured in sheer numbers of people instead of rates, the population juggernaut rolls on even in highly

developed nations.

Think of it as a huge ship whose skipper has decided to reverse course. Even after the captain issues the order, the ocean liner may still travel several miles before actually completing the 180-degree turn.

So it is with human reproduction.

Although the U.S. fertility rate has been at or below replacement level since the early 1970s, America still adds 2 million people annually, not counting immigration. In 1990, more American babies were born than at any time since the 1961 baby-boom year. At present rates, deaths will not equal births in the United States for another 110 years. Then there will be about 400 million Americans compared to about 250 million today.

BUT WHY should America and other industrialized countries be concerned about their population? After all, their standard of living is the highest in the world.

That, in fact, is part of the problem. The more affluent a population, the more resources it consumes and the more waste and pollution it produces. If the entire world enjoyed the lifestyle of America, western Europe and Japan, the environment might already be down for the count.

For example, although the United States contains only 5 percent of the world's people, it consumes 25 percent of the world's energy, uses a fifth of all tin, aluminum and copper, and produces a fourth of all carbon dioxide—possibly the chief cause of suspected global warming.

Americans also create more garbage than any other nation—four pounds per person per day. Each baby born in America, says Ehrlich, represents the same environmental impact as two born in Sweden, 13 in Brazil, 35 in India and 280 in Chad or Haiti.

Because the American lifestyle so greatly affects the environment, some

population experts believe the United States should tighten its immigration policy. Currently, half of all immigration in the world is into the United States. "The world simply can't afford more Americans," says Ehrlich.

By some measures, Americans are already getting in each other's way. New York, Houston and other metropolitan areas have become big traffic jams. Despite its labyrinth of freeways, Los Angeles traffic moves at an average speed of 33 mph.

"Why should we run an experiment to see how many people we can cram on the planet before all its systems collapse?" asks Ehrlich. Indeed, who would want to live in a maximally crowded world?

Probably no one. But what can you do about it? A lot!

Write some letters. One in your local newspaper will help inform your neighbors about the population problem. Others to senators, representatives and the President might urge them to support stable U.S. and global populations and family planning assistance for third world nations.

Finally, adopt a sense of environmental responsibility. Select products, consume energy and dispose of wastes wisely. Treat the Earth as the only home you'll ever have—because it is. □



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NATO

Continued from page 31

But the need to preserve NATO goes well beyond international camaraderie and past achievements. The monolith of Soviet power is gone, but in its place are smaller risks to the security of the United States and its allies.

A long list of unanswered questions justifies military vigilance: Will Russia stabilize as a democracy or return to authoritarianism and empire-building?

Will the successor states to the Soviet Union sort out their territorial disputes peacefully? Will the nuclear weapons of the Soviet Union fall under reliable control and eventually be destroyed?

At the same time, recent events in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf remind Americans and Europeans of just how vulnerable our economies are to cutoffs in the flow of oil and trade from other parts of the globe.

Religious fanaticism and serious economic problems in North Africa

and the Middle East grow as well, bringing with them the possibility of small, low-intensity conflicts near Europe's southern borders.

At least 40 non-NATO submarines ply the waters of the Mediterranean these days—some of them from unstable or hostile countries such as Algeria, Libya and Syria. These denizens of the deep have the capacity to disrupt shipping and attack civilian targets.

"[Southern Europe] is not a risk-free region, and during times of rapid changes in the world such as we are seeing now, nations and militaries need to cooperate," Adm. Jeremy Boorda, Commander of Allied Forces Southern Europe, recently told an Italian audience.

INDIVIDUALLY or without the involvement of the United States, European countries may not be able to defuse military crises. The weak European response to the breakup of Yugoslavia is an example of this problem.

An American military presence in Europe still adds stability on a continent known for its intrigues. Even among western European countries, for example, the existence of NATO and the influence of the United States helps to reduce tensions between Greece and Turkey, the spread of nuclear weapons in Europe, and concerns about German unification and Germany's growing influence in eastern Europe.

Why is it so important for American taxpayers to pay for a continued military presence in Europe? History tells us that returning to Europe in the face of a crisis would be much more dangerous and more expensive than remaining in Europe with greatly reduced troop levels.

For the United States, cooperation in NATO is not just a one-way street. Last year's war against Iraq was not a NATO effort—since the organization is prohibited from operating outside the defense of Europe—but 12 NATO members sent ships to the Persian Gulf.

For months, they imposed the blockade on Iraq and swept for mines in the gulf. Other allies sent ground troops and aircraft to assist in ousting Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

The success of the campaign had much to do with the international training, common procedures and compatible technology that NATO imposes on its members.

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respond to every military contingency in today's world.

In NATO, however, even small countries add value to certain missions. Belgium and the Netherlands, for example, contribute minesweeping expertise that fills a crucial gap in U.S. naval capabilities.

Some American military officials doubt the wisdom of relying on foreign capabilities. Soon, however, cuts of 25 percent or more in the U.S. military budget may give them no choice.

International military divisions-of-labor should be encouraged and expanded in the 1990s, not done away with.

Backing NATO does not mean backing an unchanged NATO. For one thing, the United States has the right to expect that rich European countries will pay for a greater share of NATO's costs.

The value of U.S. contributions to NATO is hard to calculate, but may be as high as \$150 billion each year. That bill will get smaller as the U.S. troop presence in Europe declines from more than 300,000 to about 150,000 by the mid-1990s.

Just as important, NATO must focus its remaining resources on real military risks and accommodate countries that broke away from communism.

THE EARLY signs are good. To confront risks to southern Europe, the NATO standing naval force was activated in the Mediterranean last April. It is composed of U.S., British, Dutch and German ships on a full-time basis and ships from other NATO countries for shorter periods. And NATO land forces will be more mobile, away from the central front in Germany that no longer exists.

Last December, NATO formed the North Atlantic Cooperation Council as its communications link with the republics of the old Soviet empire.

For starters, the council aims to cut the number of troops in Europe, ensure that tactical nuclear weapons in the ex-Soviet Union are destroyed, get new democracies to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and find civilian work for Russia's nuclear scientists. That will take a lot of talking and a lot of time.

The sight of visiting Russian politicians and generals at NATO headquarters still seems strange, but something even stranger may find its way on the agenda soon: Russian membership in NATO. Why not?

The United States and its NATO

allies believe that military cooperation among the world's strongest countries is a good thing. NATO helps Europeans overcome their military rivalries and work toward economic and political unity. NATO brings together the "nuclear club" and helps them plan reductions in nuclear weapons.

Looking at it that way, a democratic Russia is just the kind of new member that NATO should recruit.

Finally, NATO should consider changing its charter to allow it to organize military responses outside Europe—which is, after all, where most crises probably will originate. One day, NATO might even serve as the agent of the United Nations to enforce major Security Council resolutions.

Critics of such a change should remember that expanding NATO's mandate would not force it to respond to every international crisis, or force all of its members to take part in any given operation.

It would, however, ensure that U.S. and European military strength looks formidable, that countries do not go off on private military adventures, and that the costs of responding to serious crises are shared. Those, after all, are the goals that NATO was built on. □

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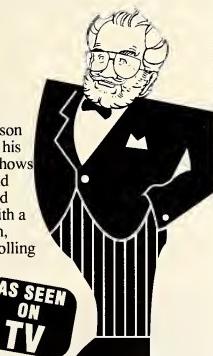
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GOVERNMENT

Continued from page 23

A. What we tend to forget is that the people who live in the worst slums are really a small group—maybe 3 million altogether. One thing we are studying at the Rockefeller College is the new neighborhoods being developed by black and Hispanic people who are moving out of the worst areas because they want a safer place to live.

These people care more about taking action against crime, drugs and dependency than we do, because these are the people who are really threatened.

For example, in New York City's Queens, all around Kennedy Airport, there's a huge area of almost entirely black working and middle-class people who are fighting to make their community safe and pleasant to live in.

Q. What's the answer to welfare and the permanent dependency on government handouts?

A. The answer is not more money; the answer is values. The answer is working with people to take care of their families, to get them trained for jobs, to provide them with child care, to get jobs, to get them out of the rut and out of the places where welfare is most concentrated.

Saving children and families—that's what it's all about. It's trying to get to the fathers, as well as the mothers in welfare families, to get them to the mainstream society that the rest of us live in, to live by the values that enable you to make it in America.

I think we cheat the poor when we don't help them understand this and prepare them to climb up the ladder.

Q. The federal government has been unloading more and more responsibility onto states and localities for dealing with these issues. Are they really up to this greater challenge?

Revenue sharing once helped in this process, but that's gone now. I personally think that the federal government has abrogated its responsibility to help meet social needs in this country.

Q. Have block grants proved adequate to meet such needs?

Block grants are like revenue sharing, which was general purpose money. Block grants should be targeted on the most needy areas to enable state and local governments to deal with the hard problems, such as community development and drug treatment. Now, however, this program has atrophied because it's been cut back and its impact has been reduced by inflation.

Q. What role does politics play?

A. A big factor is that the problems of the inner cities involve people who don't have a constituency. They don't have a lot of friends and few votes. They are concentrated and the group is relatively small.

There's been a change politically that is related to the more conservative mood of the country in the past decade, especially on domestic and social issues. This has obviously hurt.

Q. Is corruption and inefficiency any worse at state and local levels than in Washington?

A. I wouldn't say so. State governments have changed in the past 20 years. Their leaders are much more professional, with good analytic ability—leaders who care. Legislatures work all year and have strong committee staff support. State governments

are entering the modern era.

As for cities, an important point is that most cities are not big players in the urban game, because cities don't run the basic programs dealing with urban problems.

They don't run welfare. They don't run schools. They don't run job programs. The programs that are most important in dealing with the urban crisis are mainly the responsibility of state and county governments.

States have been doing more, but I don't believe they can do it on their own. They need federal help, especially when recession hits.

Q. What are the chances of having the private sector pick up more of the load?

Non-profit groups that receive money from different government agencies and that are organized as community groups provide many of the social services we're talking about, services like child care, drug treatment, job programs and mental health aid.

To understand the urban agenda and how we can deal with urban issues, you really have to understand the rising role of these non-profit organizations. We often talk about privatization in government, but what we've had in urban policy is a trend toward non-profitization.

Now the politics have shifted, the conditions have changed, and it's hard to be optimistic.

Q. What do you consider the worst problem now faced by state and local governments?

A. Space and race are the key variables. These include locked-in people who've been left behind in crack and crime neighborhoods.

Q. What's the most hopeful development?

A. People's fantastic efforts on the scene. I was associate staff director of the Kerner Commission on Civil Disorders in 1968, and our final report stated that America is fast becoming two societies—one black and one white. We now know that's an oversimplification.

In the years since, what's really happened is that we've had a fragmentation of the minority community. People are proving they can make it. Minorities are rising to high positions, thanks to changes in our laws and major institutions. The people left behind are the real problem. Yet, it's not so big that we can't tackle it. □



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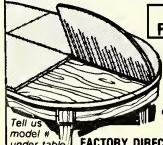
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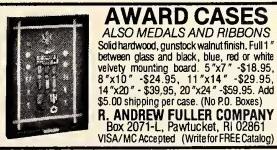
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Aunt Misbehaving

Did you hear about the kid who put ice cubes in his aunt's bed? He wanted to make antifreeze.

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